

# ReaxFF: a fast, transferable computational method for atomistic-scale dynamical simulations of chemical reactions

Adri van Duin

Materials and Process Simulation Center, California Institute of  
Technology

NASA/Ames August 2006



# Material and Process Simulation Center at the California Institute of Technology



Bill Goddard

Nagarajan Vaidehi  
(currently City of Hope)

Protein simulations

Jonas Oxgaard

Catalysis

Mamadou Diallo

Environmental chemistry

Sergey Zybin

High-energy materials

Adri van Duin

Force field development (ReaxFF)

Boris Merinov

Fuel cells

Weiqiao Deng  
(currently U. Singapore)  
Nano

Andres Botero

Software integration

- ± 55 scientists, covering various areas of atomistic- and mesoscale simulations (QM, FF, MC)
- 60/40 government/industry funding
- Current industry projects:

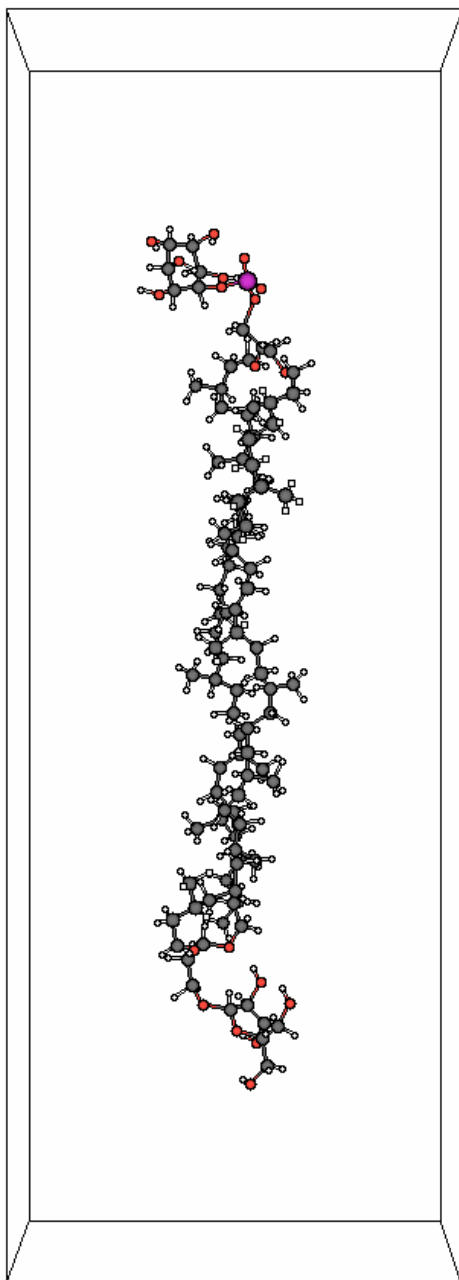
- GPCR membrane enzymes (Berlex, Avantis)
- Methane activation (Chevron)
- Nanotube/metal links (Intel)
- DLC engine friction (Nissan)
- Cu/Si catalysis (Dow Corning)
- Semiconductors (Samsung)

- Current government-funded projects:

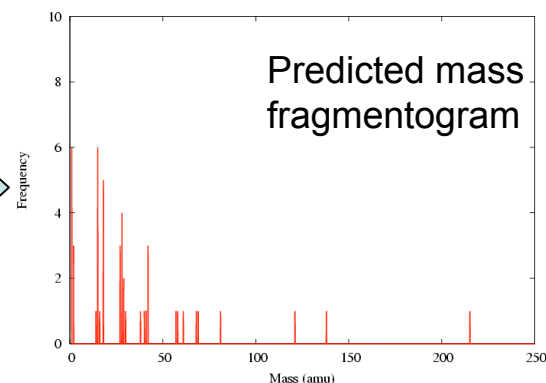
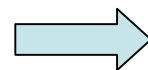
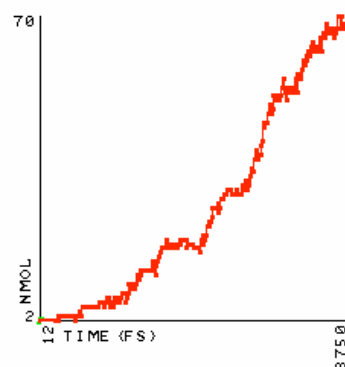
- SOFC Fuel cells (DoE)
- Stress-corrosion cracking (NSF)
- Metaloxide catalysis (DoE)
- Ionic liquid catalysis (DoE)
- Explosives sensitivity (DoE, ONR)
- Dendrimer/environment (NSF)
- Software integration (DARPA)
- QM-development (ASC)



# What can ReaxFF do for you ?



Decomposition of a archea phospholipid biomarker (GDGT) by exposure to high-velocity (30eV) N-radicals



- Single-processor MD/NVE simulation
- 300-326 atoms
- 15000 MD-iterations
- CPU-time: 1884 seconds

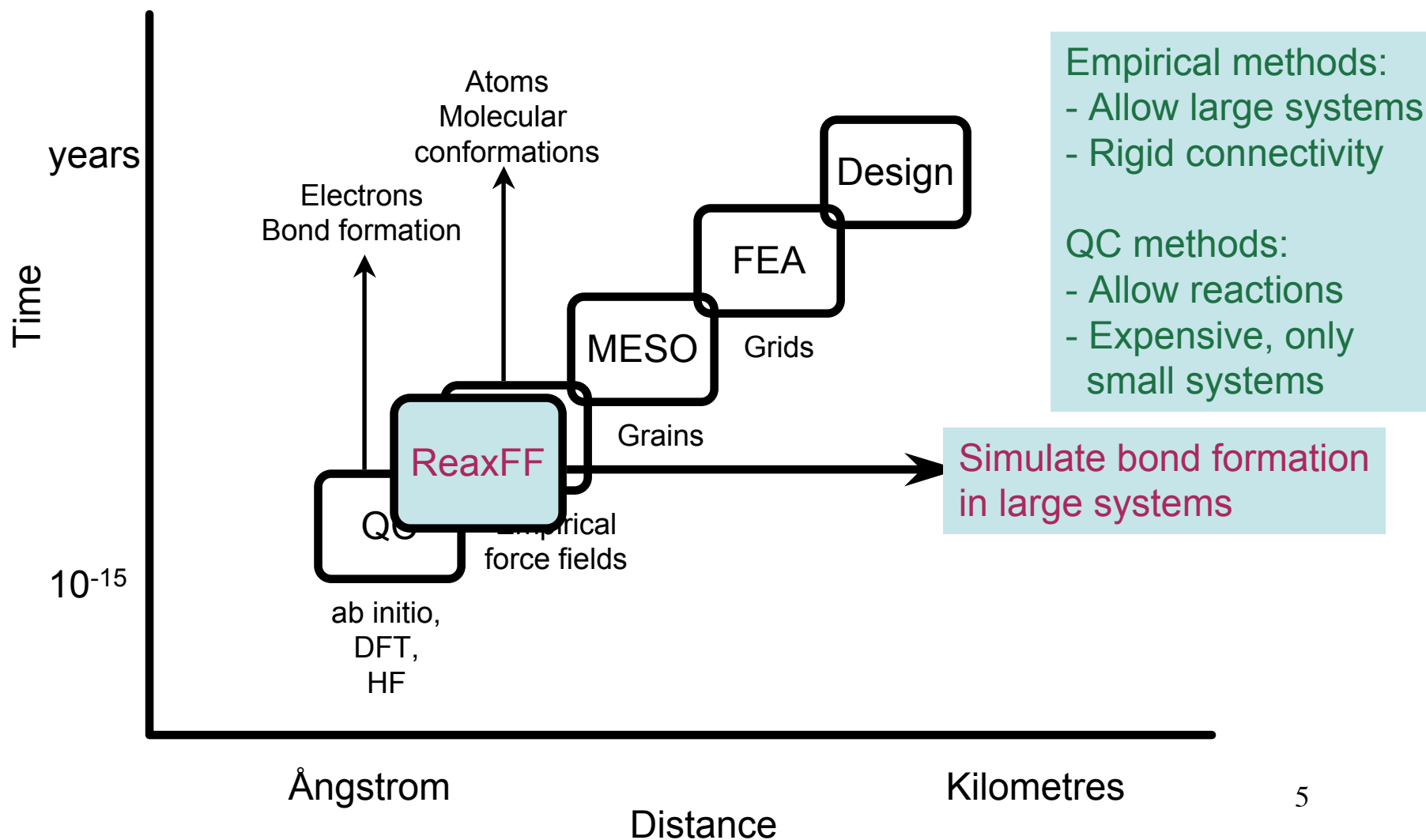
- ReaxFF can perform fast molecular dynamics simulations involving complicated chemical reactions

# Contents

- ReaxFF: background, rules and current development status
- Stress-induced crack propagation
  - Integration of ReaxFF in a multi-paradigm computational framework (CMDF)
  - ReaxFF/Tersoff/CMDF simulations on crack propagation in silicon
  - Influence of corrosion on crack propagation
- Hydrocarbon combustion and metal-oxide catalyzed hydrocarbon oxidation
  - Force field development
  - Simulations on o-Xylene combustion
  - $V_2O_5$ -catalyzed hydrocarbon conversion
- Hydrogen and hydrocarbon conversion on Pt- and Ni-surfaces
  - Force field development
  - Methanol conversion on Pt[111]
  - Ni/Cu/Co catalyzed nanotube formation
  - $H_2$  dissociation on a faceted  $Ni_{309}$ -particle



# ReaxFF: background and rules



## ReaxFF: key features

-To get a smooth transition from nonbonded to single, double and triple bonded systems ReaxFF employs a bond length/bond order relationship<sup>1,2</sup>. Bond orders are updated every iteration.

- Nonbonded interactions (van der Waals, Coulomb) are calculated between **every** atom pair, irrespective of connectivity. Excessive close-range nonbonded interactions are avoided by shielding.
- All connectivity-dependent interactions (i.e. valence and torsion angles) are made bond-order dependent, ensuring that their energy contributions disappear upon bond dissociation.
- ReaxFF uses a geometry-dependent charge calculation scheme that accounts for polarization effects.

<sup>1</sup>: Tersoff, PRB 1988; <sup>2</sup>: Brenner PRB 1990

## Key features

-To get a smooth transition from nonbonded to single, double and triple bonded systems ReaxFF employs a bond length/bond order relationship. Bond orders are updated every iteration.

- Nonbonded interactions (van der Waals, Coulomb) are calculated between **every** atom pair, irrespective of connectivity. Excessive close-range nonbonded interactions are avoided by shielding.

- All connectivity-dependent interactions (i.e. valence and torsion angles) are made bond-order dependent, ensuring that their energy contributions disappear upon bond dissociation.

- ReaxFF uses a geometry-dependent charge calculation scheme that accounts for polarization effects.

## Key features

- To get a smooth transition from nonbonded to single, double and triple bonded systems ReaxFF employs a bond length/bond order relationship. Bond orders are updated every iteration.
- Nonbonded interactions (van der Waals, Coulomb) are calculated between **every** atom pair, irrespective of connectivity. Excessive close-range nonbonded interactions are avoided by shielding.
- All connectivity-dependent interactions (i.e. valence and torsion angles) are made bond-order dependent, ensuring that their energy contributions disappear upon bond dissociation.
- ReaxFF uses a geometry-dependent charge calculation scheme that accounts for polarization effects.

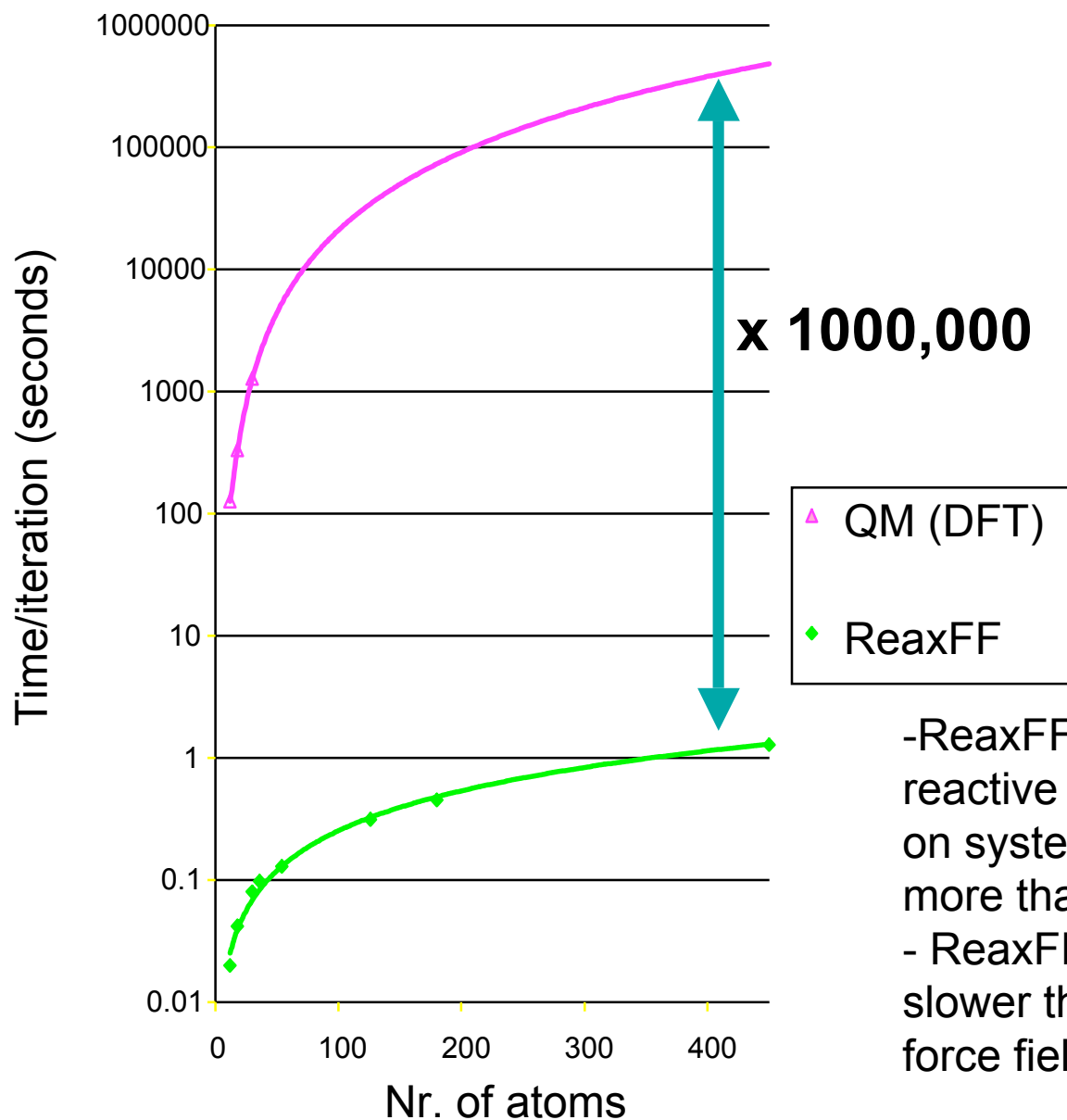
## Key features

- To get a smooth transition from nonbonded to single, double and triple bonded systems ReaxFF employs a bond length/bond order relationship. Bond orders are updated every iteration.
- Nonbonded interactions (van der Waals, Coulomb) are calculated between **every** atom pair, irrespective of connectivity. Excessive close-range nonbonded interactions are avoided by shielding.
- All connectivity-dependent interactions (i.e. valence and torsion angles) are made bond-order dependent, ensuring that their energy contributions disappear upon bond dissociation.
- ReaxFF uses a geometry-dependent charge calculation scheme that accounts for polarization effects.

## General rules

- MD-force field; no discontinuities in energy or forces even during reactions.
- User should not have to pre-define reactive sites or reaction pathways; potential functions should be able to automatically handle coordination changes associated with reactions.
- Each element is represented by only 1 atom type in the force field; force field should be able to determine equilibrium bond lengths, valence angles etc. from chemical environment.

# ReaxFF Computational expense



-ReaxFF allows for reactive MD-simulations on systems containing more than 1000 atoms  
- ReaxFF is 10-50 times slower than non-reactive force fields

# Current development status

## Published ReaxFF force fields for:

- **H/C** (van Duin, Dasgupta, Lorant and Goddard, JPC-A 2001, **105**, 9396; van Duin and Sinnighe Damste, Org. Geochem.2003, **34**, 515; Chen, Lusk, van Duin and Goddard PR-B 2005, **72**, 085416, Han, Kang, Lee, van Duin and Goddard Appl. Phys. Lett. 2005, **86**, 203108)
- **Si/SiO<sub>2</sub>/SiC** (van Duin, Strachan, Stewman, Zhang, Xu and Goddard, JPC-A 2003, **107**, 3803; Chenoweth, Cheung, van Duin, Goddard and Kober, JACS 2005, **127**, 7192; Buehler, van Duin and Goddard, PRL 2006, **96**, 095505)
- **Nitramines/RDX/TATP** (Strachan, van Duin, Chakraborty, Dasupta and Goddard, PRL 2003,**91**,09301; Strachan, van Duin, Kober and Goddard, JCP 2005,**122**,054502; Han, Strachan, van Duin and Goddard, in preparation; van Duin, Dubnikova, Zeiri, Kosloff and Goddard, JACS 2005, **127**, 11053)
- **Al/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>** (Zhang, Cagin, van Duin, Goddard, Qi and Hector, PRB 2004,**69**,045423)
- **Ni/Cu/Co/C** (Nielson, van Duin, Oxgaard, Deng and Goddard, JPC-A 2005, **109**, 493)
- **Pt/PtH** (Ludwig, Vlachos, van Duin and Goddard, JPC-B 2006)
- **Mg/MgH** (Cheung, Deng, van Duin and Goddard, JPC-A 2005, **109**, 851)
- **BN-nanotubes** (Han, Kang, Lee, van Duin and Goddard, JCP 2005, **123**,114703; Han, Kang, Lee, van Duin and Goddard, JCP 2005, **123**,114704)
- **Li/LiC** (Han, van Duin and Goddard, JPC-A 2005, **109**, 4575)

## Force fields in development for:

- Other transition metals, metal alloys
- Proteins, organic phosphates
- Ionic liquids (imidazole/BF<sub>4</sub>/PF<sub>6</sub>)
- Code has been distributed to over 30 research groups
- Parallel ReaxFF (GRASP/Reax and USC/Reax)

group	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
period	Ia	IIa	IIIa	IVa	Va	VIa	VIIa	VIIIa	IXa	Xa	IB	IIB	IIIB	IVB	VB	VIB	VIIb	VIIIb
1	H	He																He
2	Li	Be																
3	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar										
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
6	Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	Fr	Ra	Ac															

alkali metals    other metals    noble gases

alkaline earth metals    other nonmetals    lanthanides

transition metals    halogens    actinides

not currently described by ReaxFF



# Parallel ReaxFF: GRASP/ReaxFF

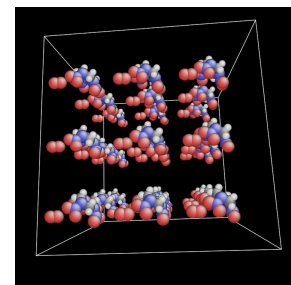
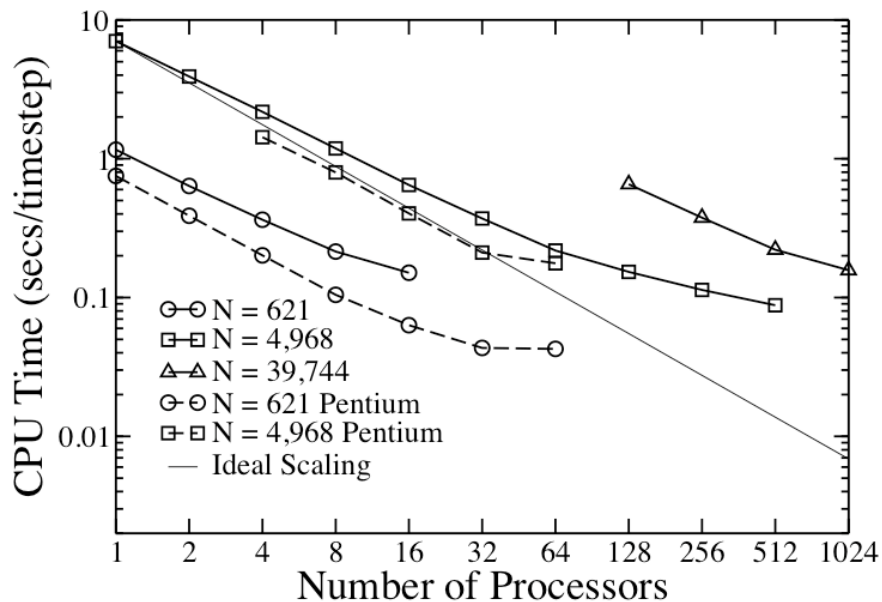
- ReaxFF is now incorporated in the Grasp-framework (Aidan Thompson, Sandia) allowing parallel ReaxFF-simulations.

## GRASP Performance on BG/L with ReaxFF

Comparison with Liberty Cluster (3GHz Pentium+Myrinet)

### RDX Explosive with Oxygen

ReaxFF force field with charge equilibration



- ReaxFF enables reactive modelling
- Si/SiO<sub>2</sub>, Explosives, film growth
- Each process computes energy and forces for a virtual non-periodic cluster
- Low communication, duplicated computation  $\sim P(N/P)^{2/3}$
- Uses Van Duin's Fortran subroutines for force calculation.
- Good strong scaling
- Sweet spot: 5000 atoms/processor

# Parallel ReaxFF: USC-Caltech-Ames collaboration

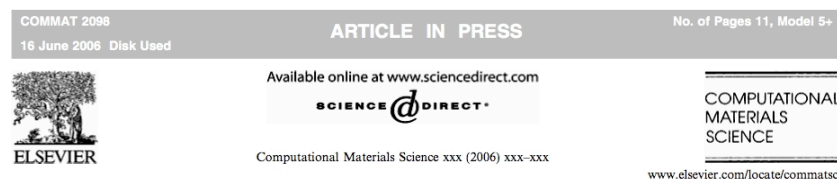
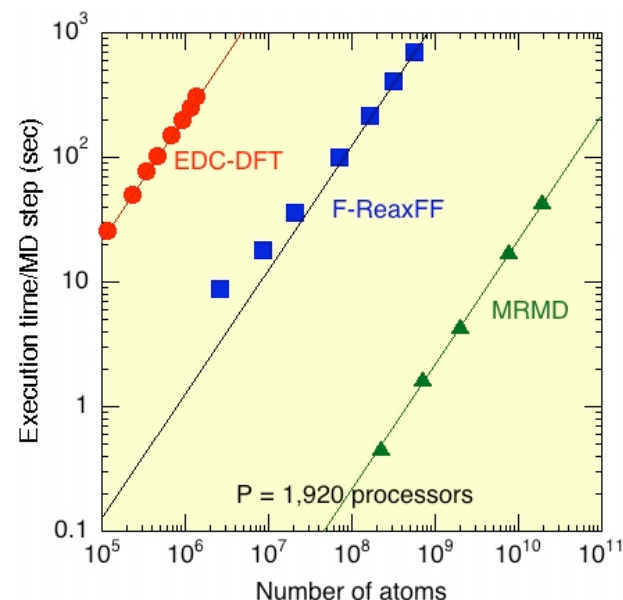
## USC-Caltech-NASA Ames collaboration

Design-space diagram on  
1,920 Itanium2 (1.5GHz) procs. of  
NASA Columbia



Parallel efficiency as high as 0.953

- 19 billion-atom classical multiresolution MD (MRMD) of  $\text{SiO}_2$
- 0.56 billion-atom fast reactive force-field (F-ReaxFF) MD of RDX
- 1.4 million-atom (0.12 trillion grid points) embedded divide-&-conquer (EDC)-density functional theory (DFT) MD of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$



A divide-and-conquer/cellular-decomposition framework for  
million-to-billion atom simulations of chemical reactions

Aiichiro Nakano <sup>a,\*</sup>, Rajiv K. Kalia <sup>a</sup>, Ken-ichi Nomura <sup>a</sup>, Ashish Sharma <sup>a</sup>,  
Priya Vashishta <sup>a</sup>, Fuyuki Shimojo <sup>a,b</sup>, Adri C.T. van Duin <sup>c</sup>,  
William A. Goddard <sup>c</sup>, Rupak Biswas <sup>d</sup>, Deepak Srivastava <sup>d</sup>

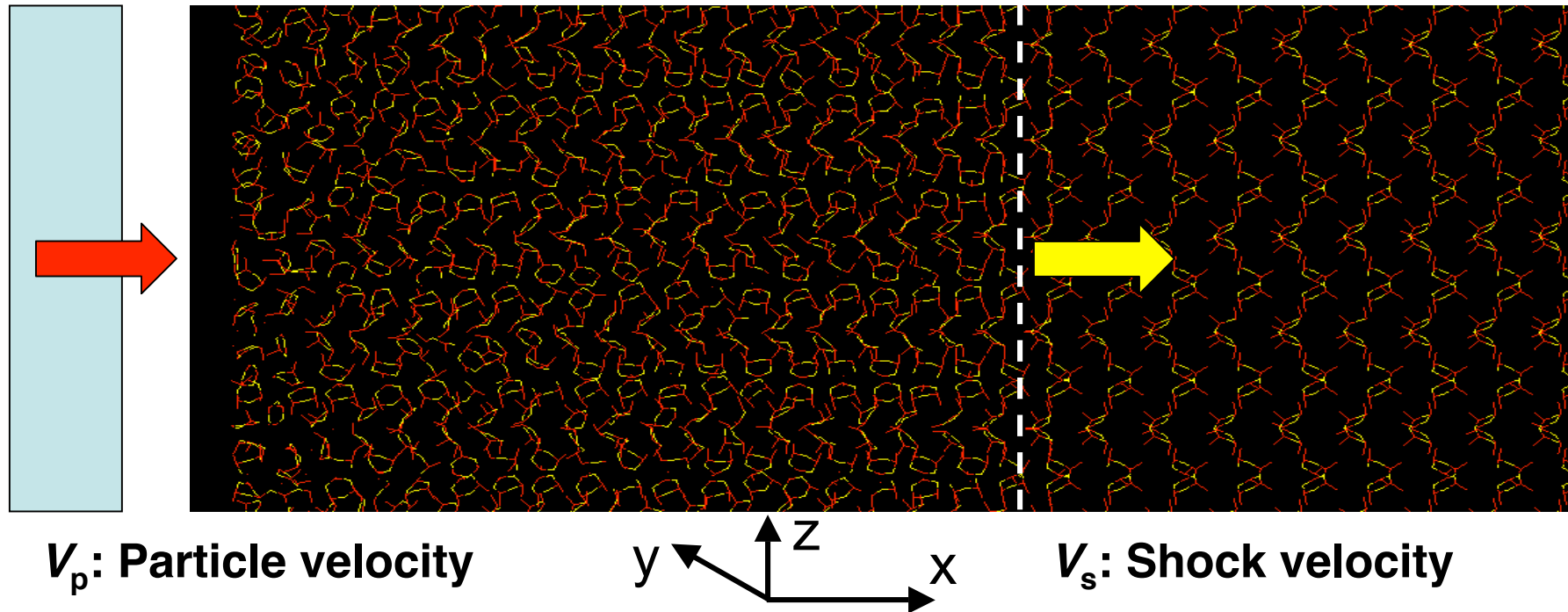
<sup>a</sup> Collaboratory for Advanced Computing and Simulations, Department of Computer Science, Department of Physics & Astronomy,  
Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0242, USA

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan

<sup>c</sup> Materials and Process Simulation Center, Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA  
<sup>d</sup> NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) Division, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035, USA

Received 22 February 2006; accepted 21 April 2006

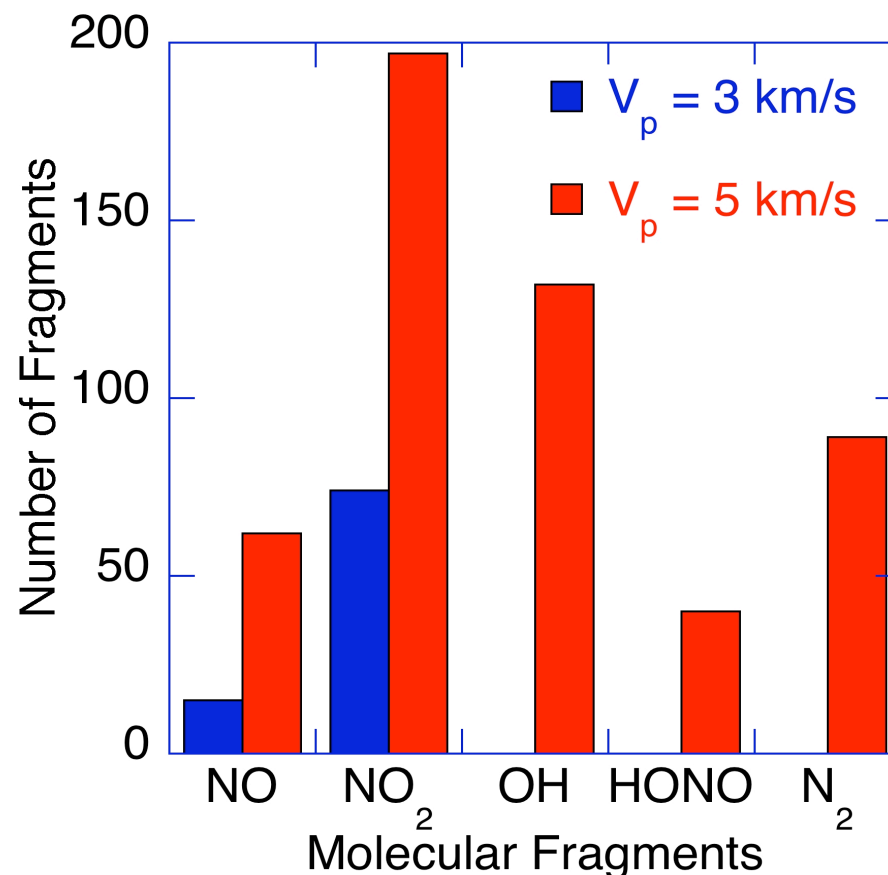
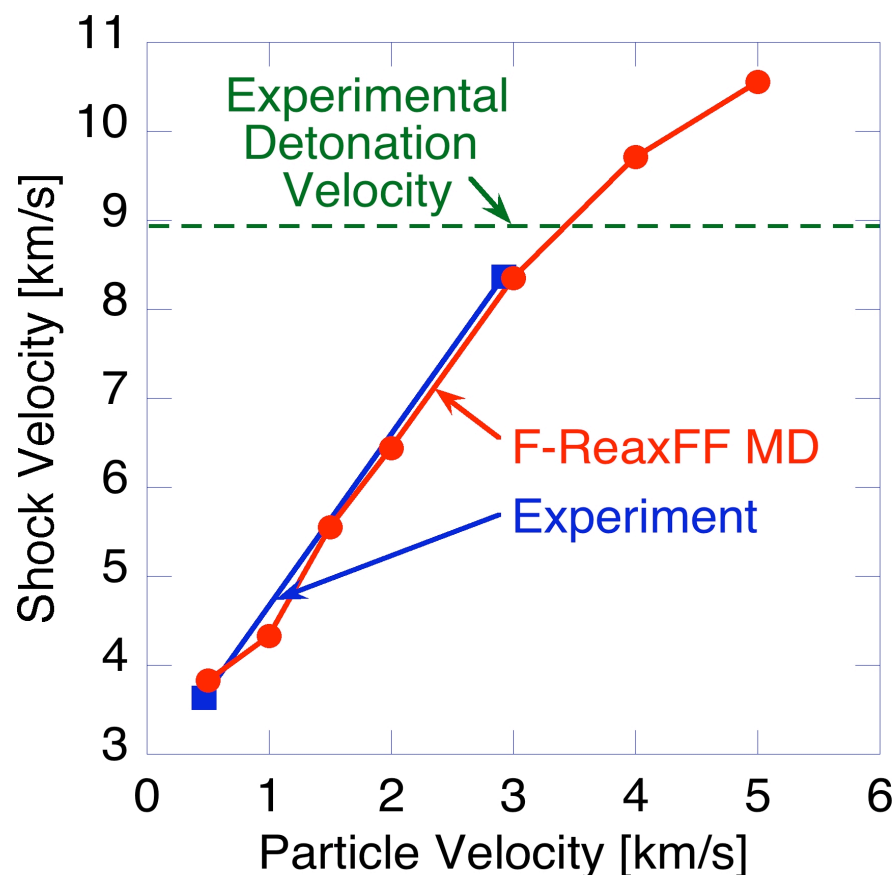
# Planar Shock on RDX Crystal



- USC's parallel F-ReaxFF program
- Number of atoms: 2,322,432 or 145,152
- System size:  $358 \times 284 \times 271 \text{ \AA}^3$  ( $24 \times 24 \times 24$  unit cells) or  $358 \times 71 \times 68 \text{ \AA}^3$  ( $24 \times 6 \times 6$  unit cells)
- Particle velocity:  $V_p = 0.5\text{--}5 \text{ (km/s)}$
- Piston modeled as a momentum mirror



# Planar Shock on RDX



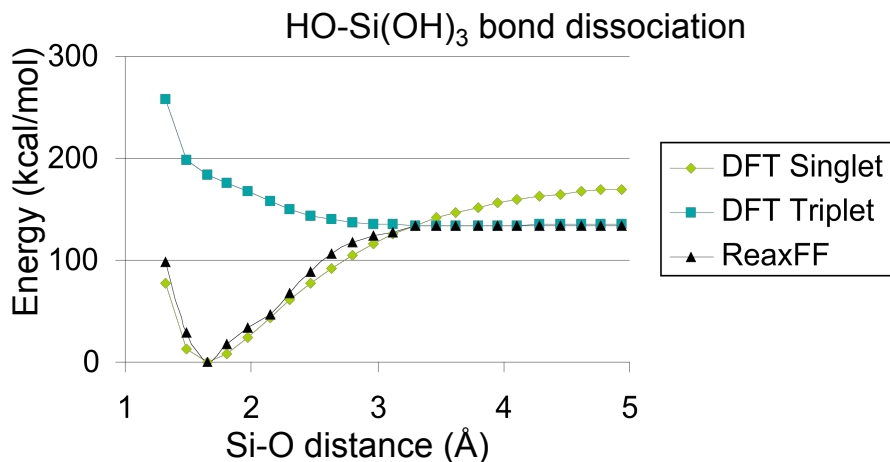
- Shock velocity agrees well with experimental data
- Onset of detonation consistent with the experimental detonation velocity



- ReaxFF: background, rules and current development status
- Stress-induced crack propagation
  - Developing the Si/SiO reactive force field
  - Stress-induced crack propagation
  - Integration of ReaxFF in a multi-paradigm computational framework (CMDF)
  - ReaxFF/Tersoff/CMDF simulations on crack propagation in silicon
  - Influence of corrosion on crack propagation
- Hydrocarbon combustion and metal-oxide catalyzed hydrocarbon oxidation
  - Force field development
  - Simulations on o-Xylene combustion
  - $V_2O_5$ -catalyzed hydrocarbon conversion
- Hydrogen and hydrocarbon conversion on Pt- and Ni-surfaces
  - Force field development
  - Methanol conversion on Pt[111]
  - Ni/Cu/Co catalyzed nanotube formation
  - $H_2$  dissociation on a faceted  $Ni_{309}$ -particle

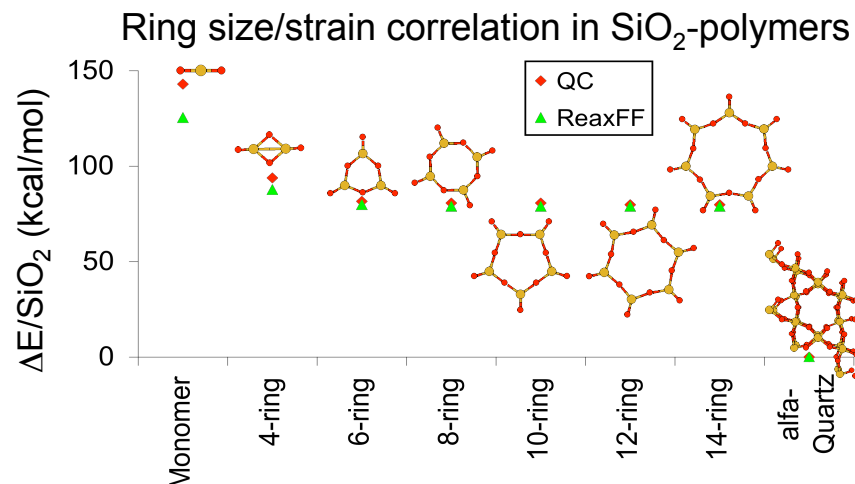
# Developing the Si/SiO reactive force field

## 1) Bond dissociation energies



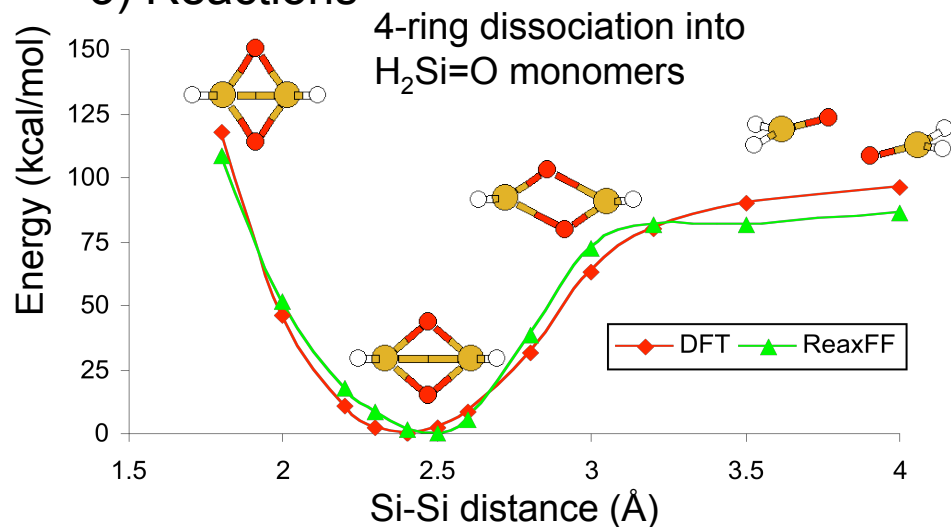
Other cases :Si-Si, Si=Si, Si=O, Si-H, O-O, O=O, O-H

## 2) Angle strain



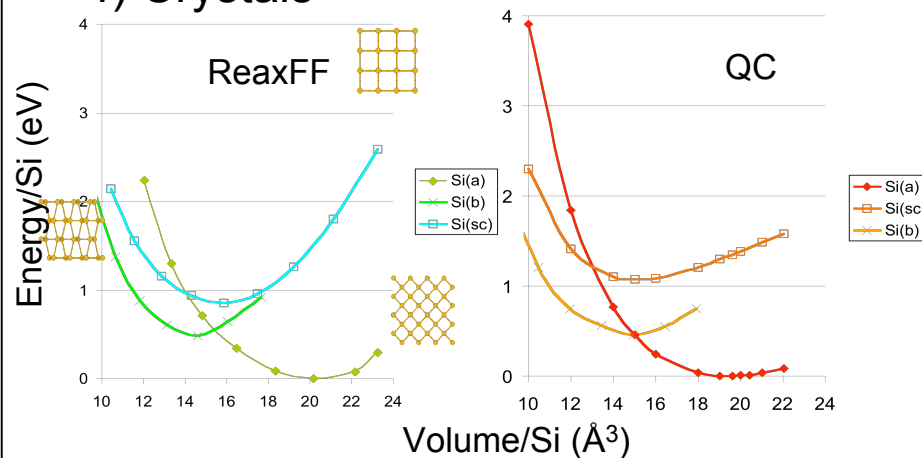
Other cases: Si/O/H angle bending energies, SiO and SiH<sub>2</sub>-six membered ring deformation energy

## 3) Reactions



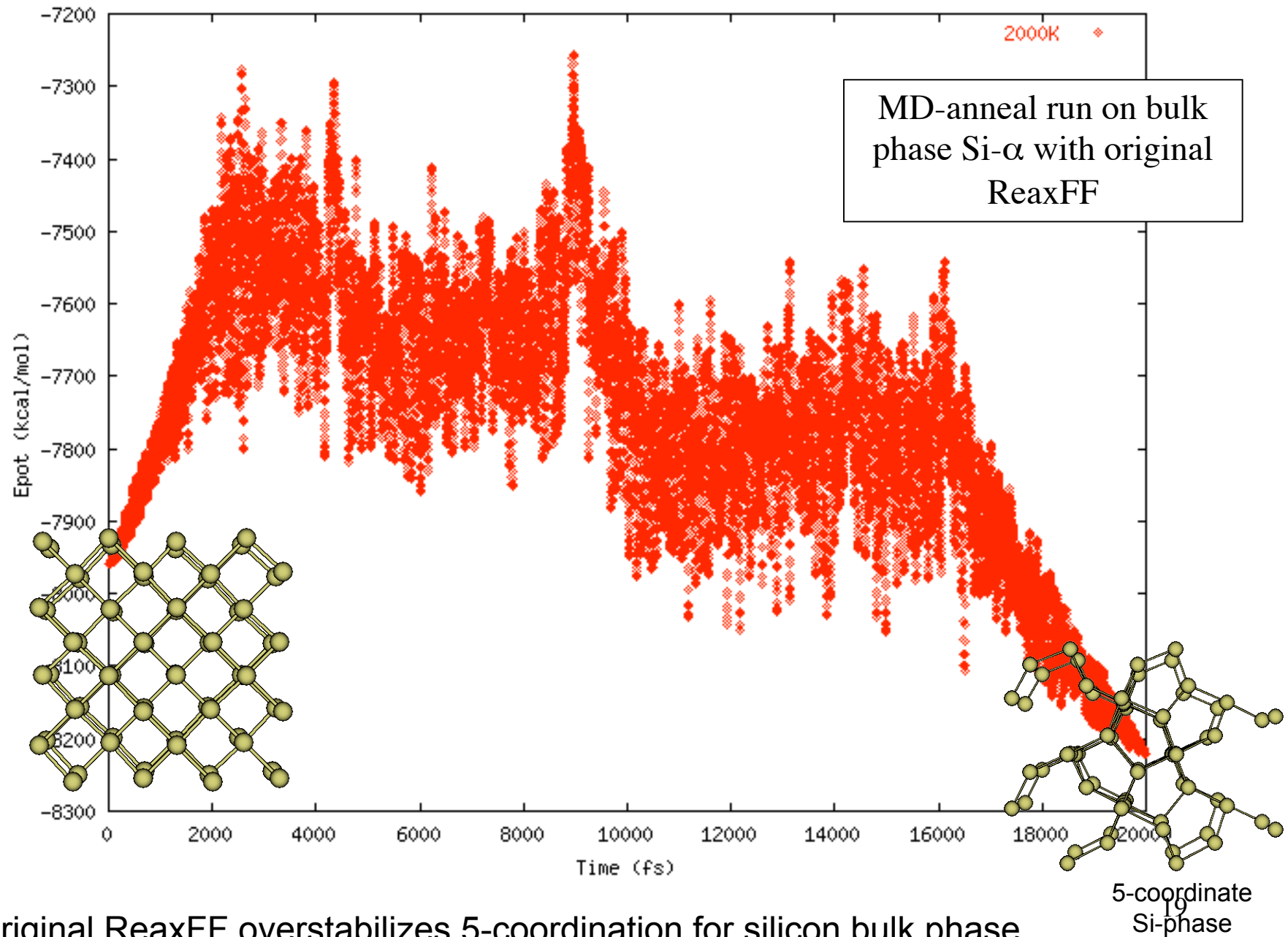
Other cases: Condensation reactions, H<sub>2</sub>O incorporation into Si-surfaces

## 4) Crystals



Other cases: Equations of state and relative stability of SiO<sub>2</sub>-polymorphs, including high-pressure phases like stishovite, CaCl<sub>2</sub> and PbO<sub>2</sub>

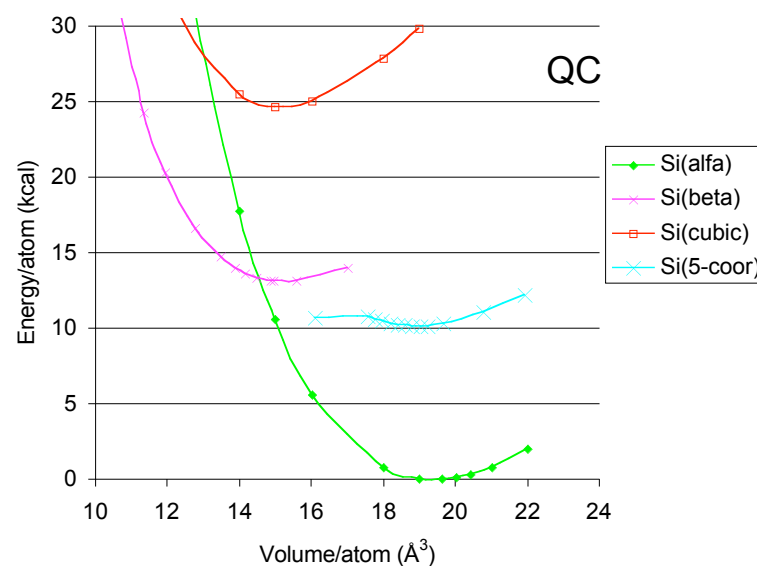
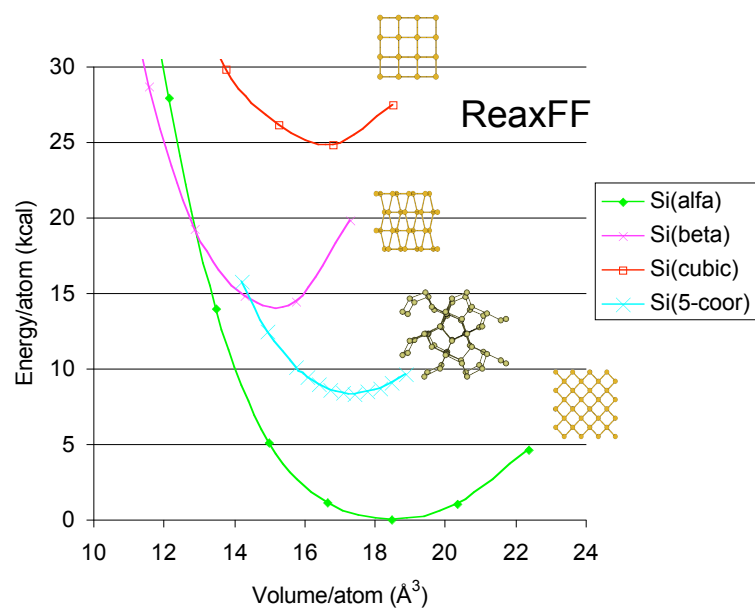
## Correcting a 'finished' ReaxFF force field



- Original ReaxFF overstabilizes 5-coordination for silicon bulk phase



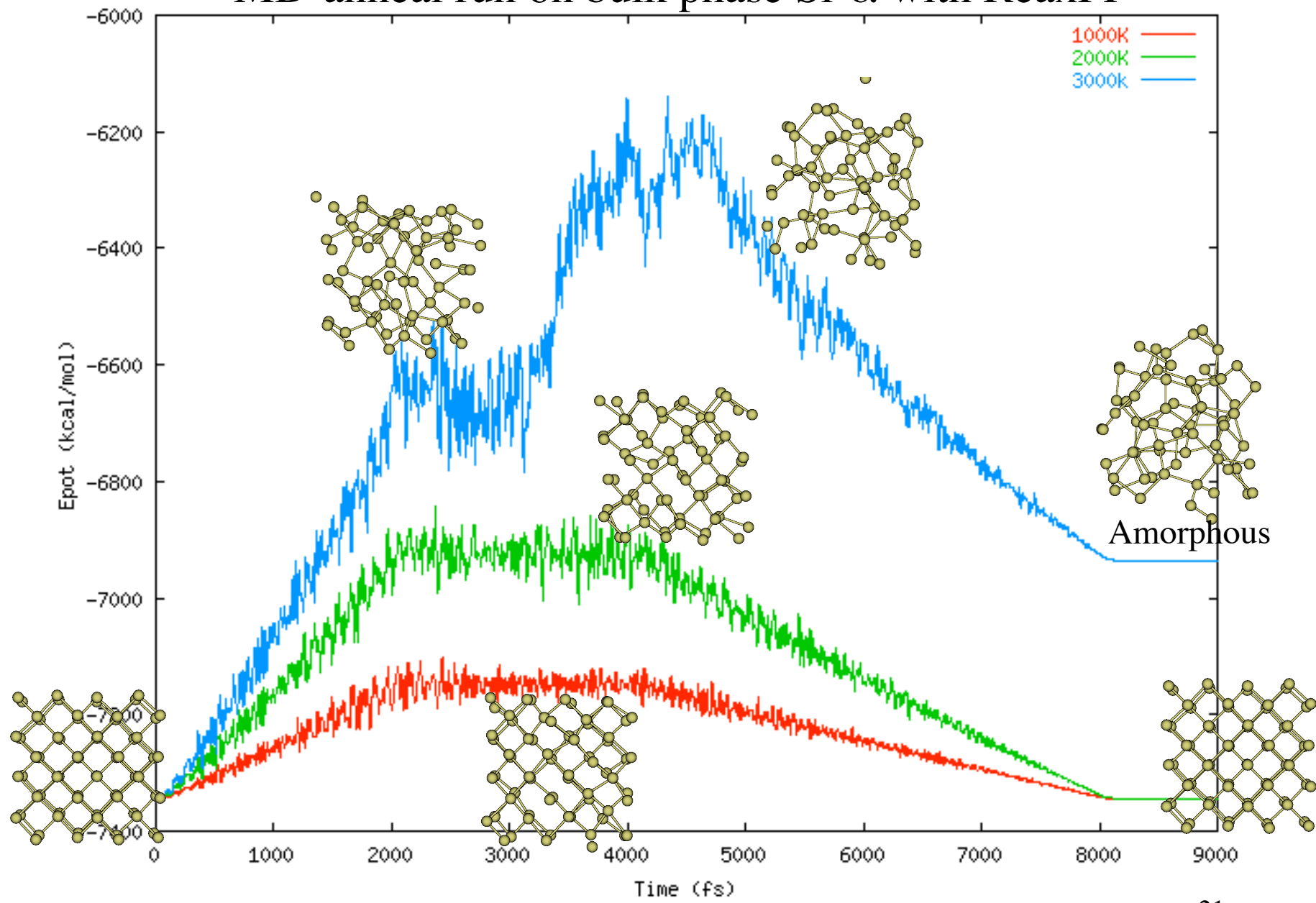
## Re-optimize ReaxFF with equation of state for 5-coordinate Si-phase



- Re-optimized ReaxFF gets proper stability for 5-coordinate Si-phase
- 5-coordinate phase is more stable than 6-coordinate Si( $\beta$ ) !
- 5-coordinate Si might be important in amorphous Si

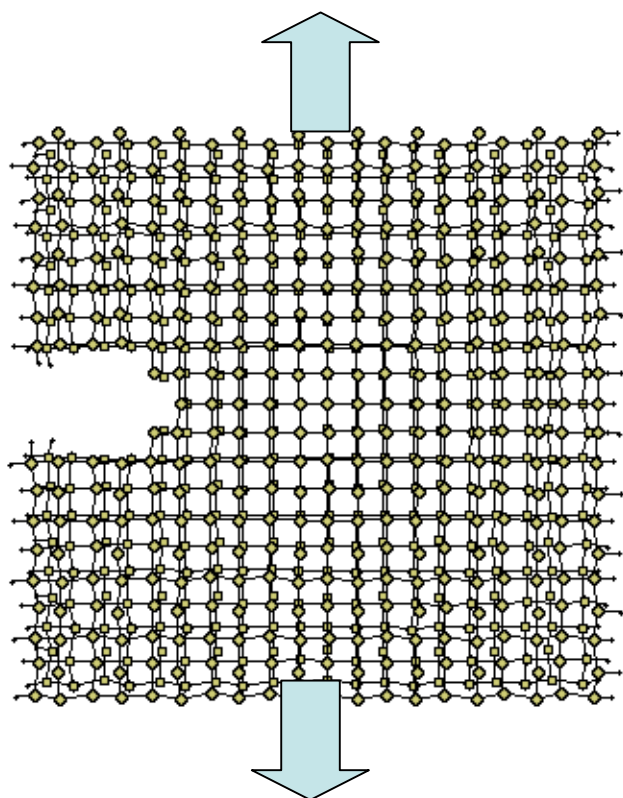


# MD-anneal run on bulk phase Si- $\alpha$ with ReaxFF



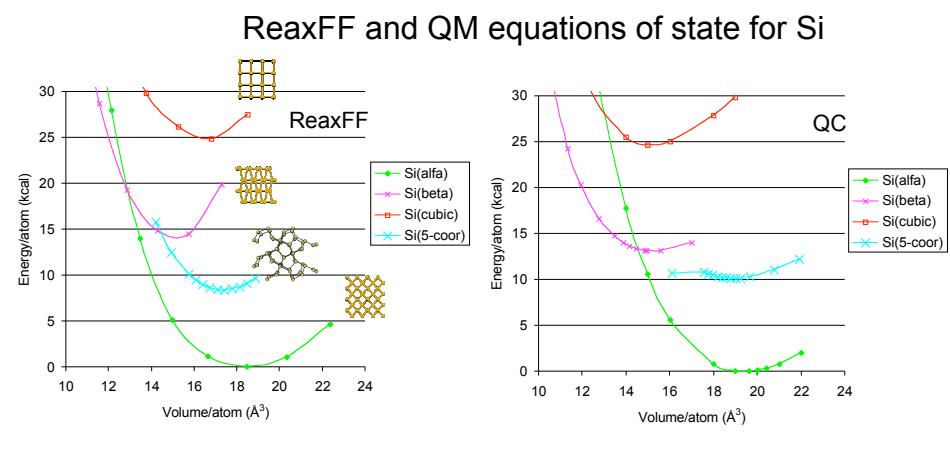
# Stress-induced crack propagation

with Markus Buehler (MIT), Jef Dodson, Si-ping Han, Yi Liu, Andres Jaramillo Botero and Bill Goddard

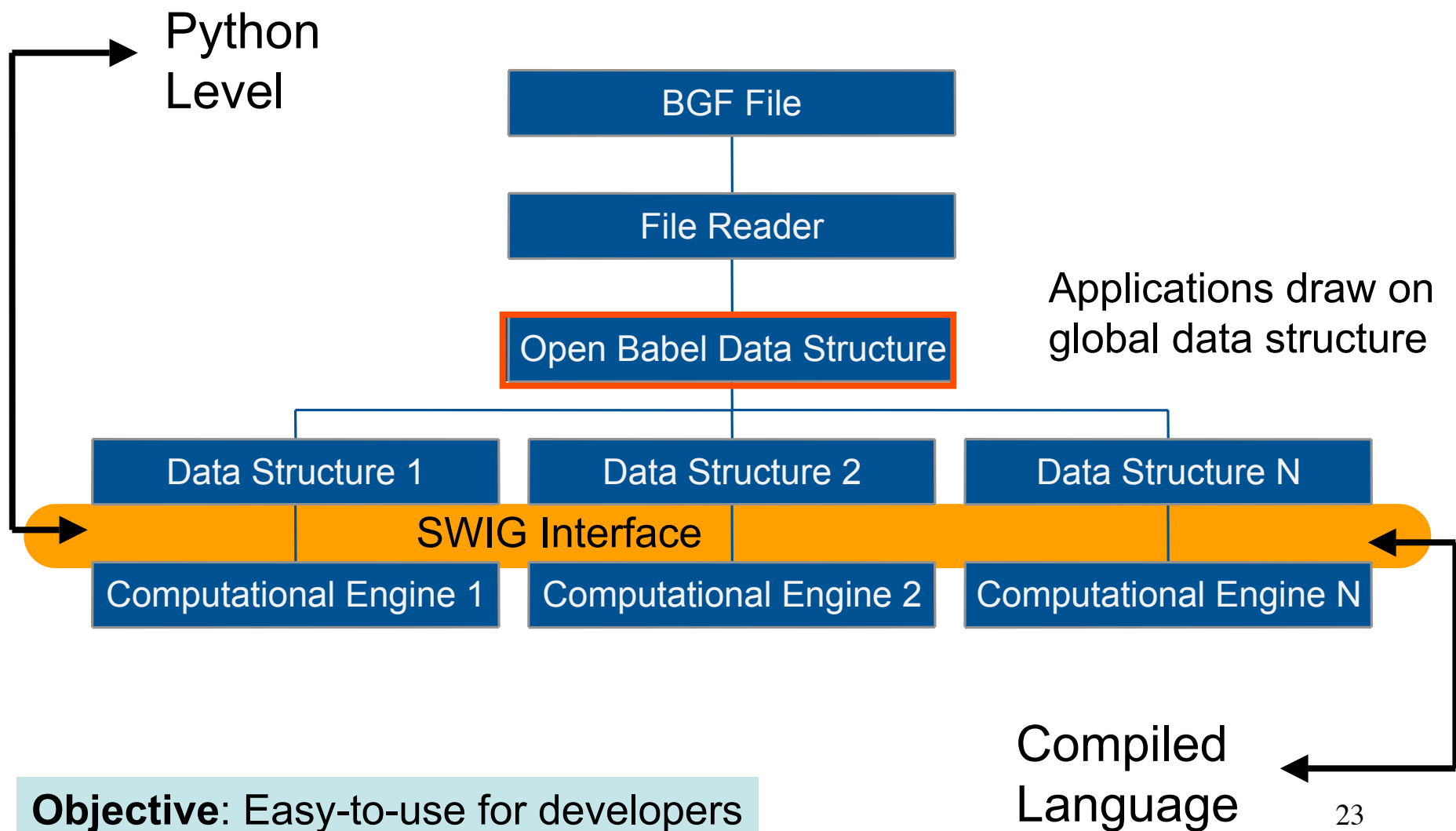


Hydrogen-terminated Si-slab  
ReaxFF NVT (100K) MD-simulation

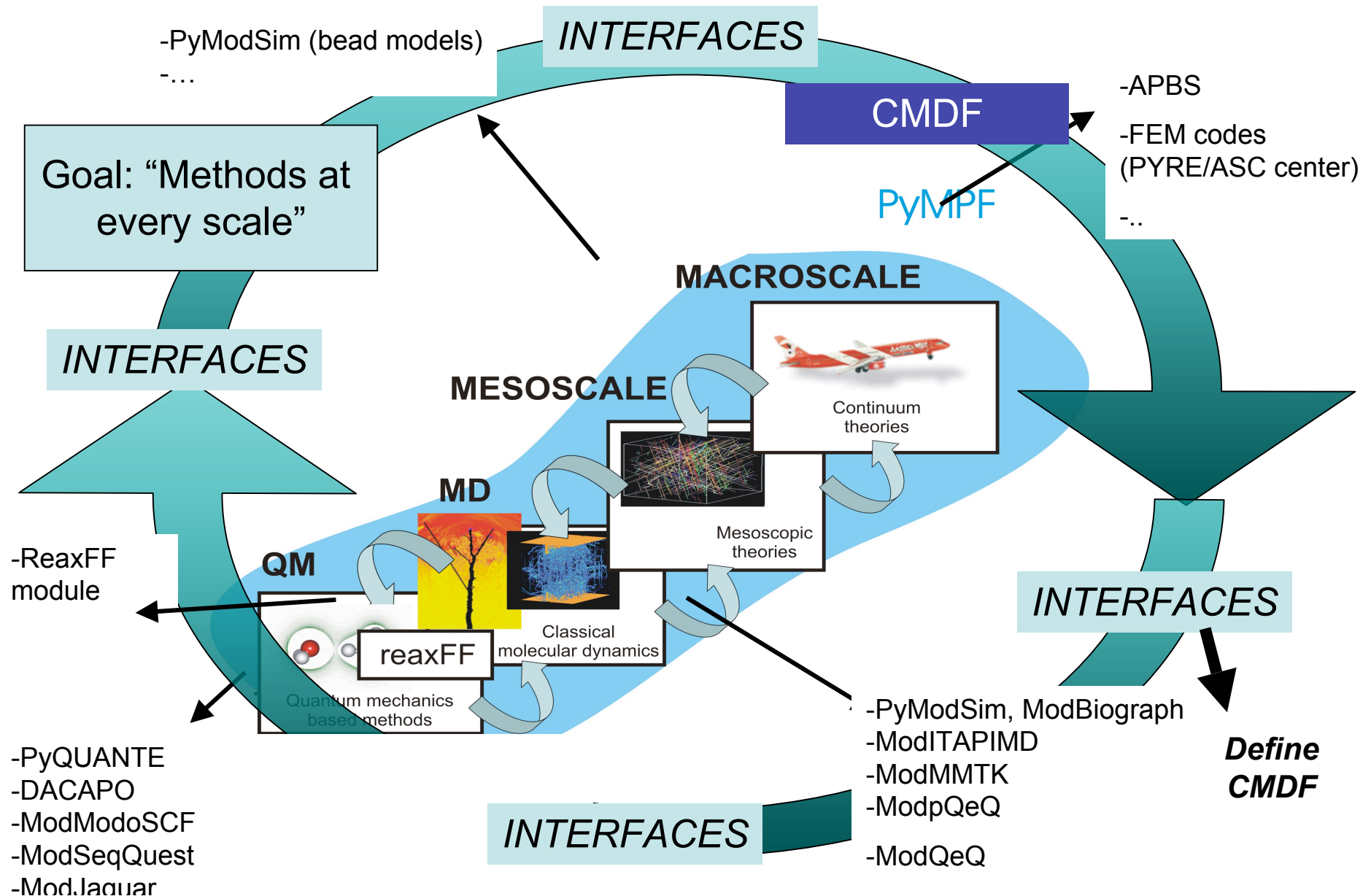
- ReaxFF describes proper, brittle behaviour of crack propagation in silicon
- ReaxFF can be used to simulate effects of corrosive reactants ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ ) on crack propagation speed
- ReaxFF is 20-50 times slower than non-reactive metal or metal oxide FF
- Use ReaxFF at crack-tip and metal/metal oxide interface; use cheaper method away from reactive zone



## Integration of ReaxFF in a multi-paradigm computational framework (CMDf)

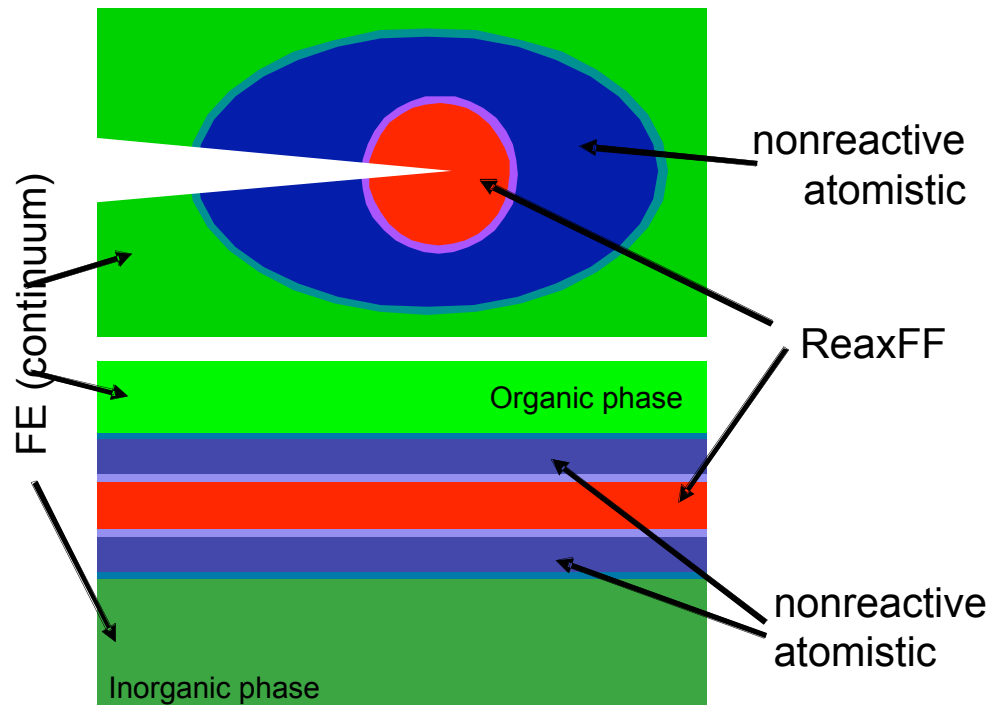
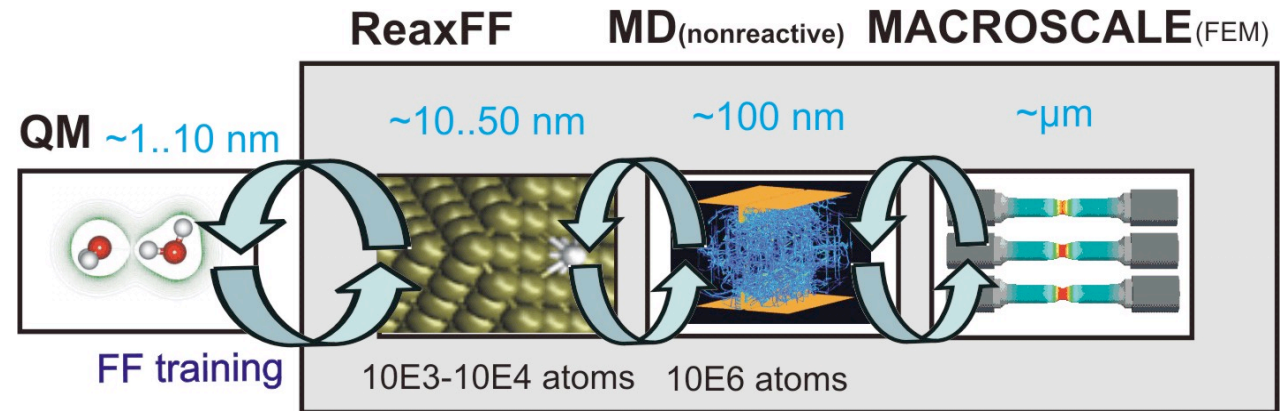


# Current simulation methods in CMDf



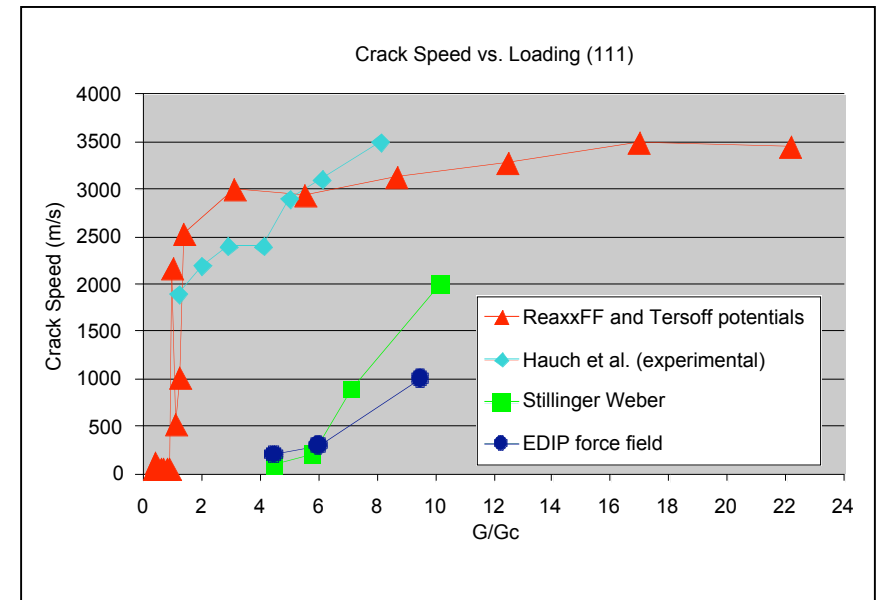
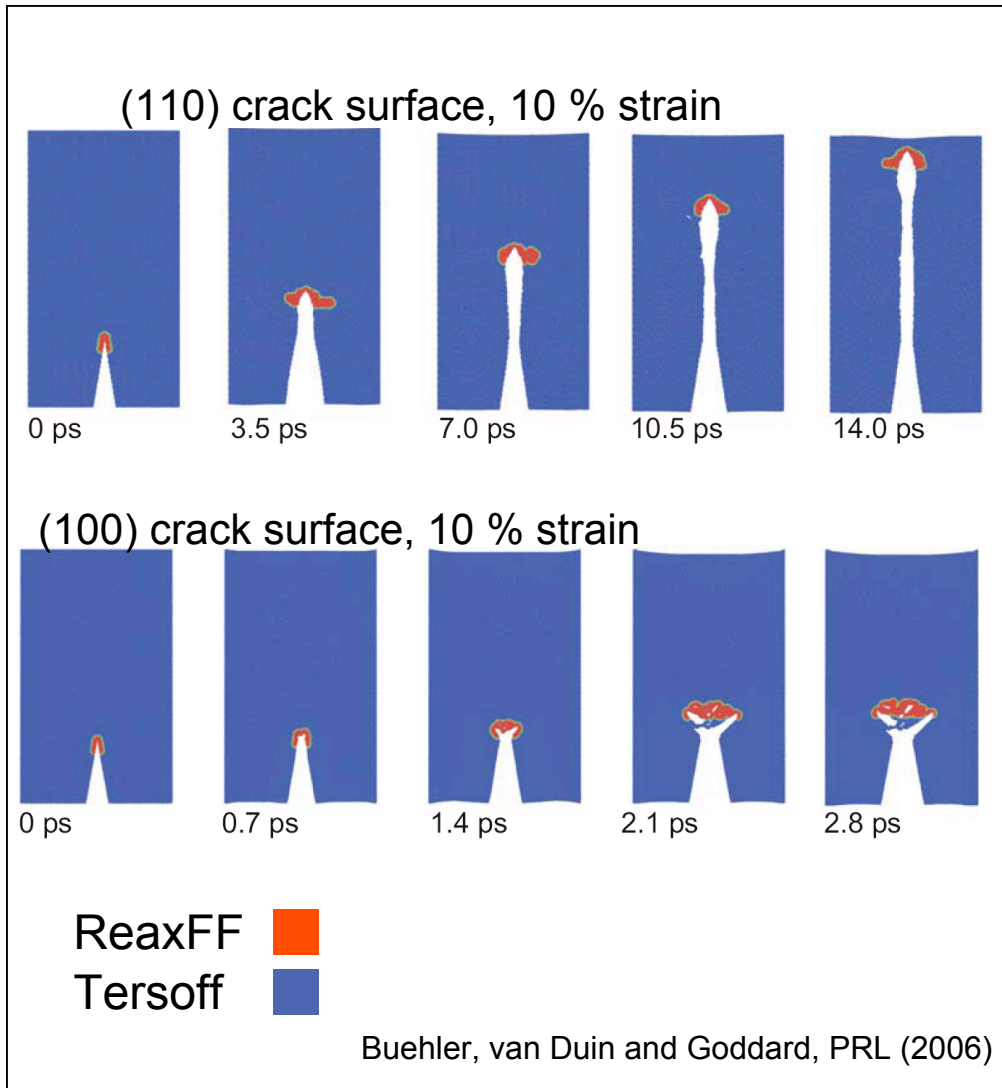
# Multi-scale simulations on crack-propagation

Concurrent integration of various scales and paradigms



- Concurrent FE-atomistic-ReaxFF scheme in a crack problem (crack tip treated by ReaxFF) and an interface problem (interface treated by ReaxFF).
- Highlighted transition regions as handshake domains between different scale and methods.
- **QM stays out of multi-scale simulation; use QM to train ReaxFF**

## ReaxFF/CMDF application to crack propagation in silicon

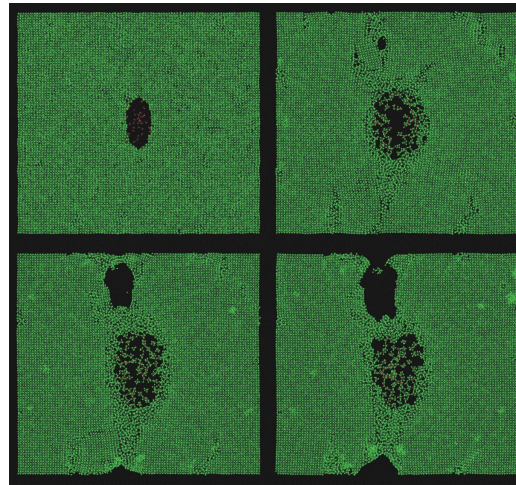


- Excellent agreement with experiment
- ReaxFF can predict material properties not covered specifically by its QM-training set



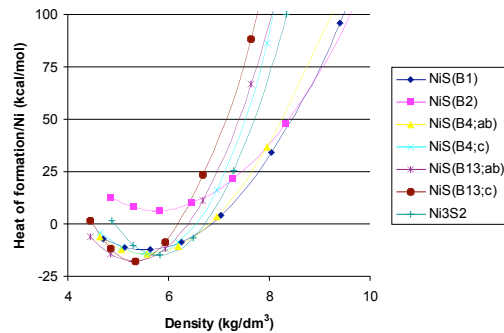
# Influence of corrosion on crack propagation

ReaxFF/EAM/CMD/FF  
simulations



Influence of oxidation on crack  
propagation in aluminium

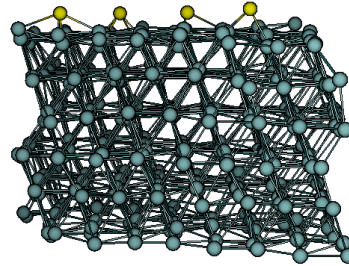
QM



Determine equations of state,  
binding energies, barriers

training

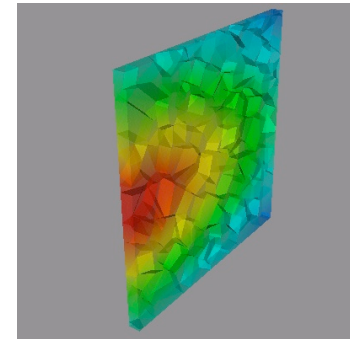
ReaxFF



Determine sulfur diffusion constants  
and decohesion behaviour in Ni-  
bulk, surfaces and grains

training

Finite element



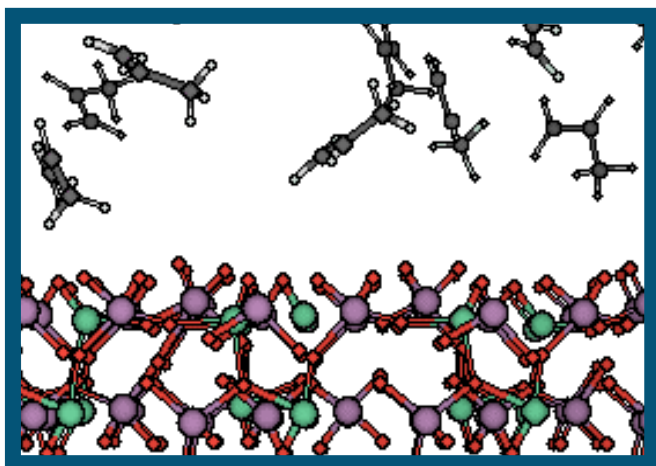
Simulation of stress-corrosion in  
macroscopic samples

- ReaxFF: background, rules and current development status
- Stress-induced crack propagation
  - Integration of ReaxFF in a multi-paradigm computational framework (CMDF)
  - ReaxFF/Tersoff/CMDF simulations on crack propagation in silicon
  - Influence of corrosion on crack propagation
- Hydrocarbon combustion and metal-oxide catalyzed hydrocarbon oxidation
  - Force field development
  - Simulations on o-Xylene combustion
  - $V_2O_5$ -catalyzed hydrocarbon conversion
- Hydrogen and hydrocarbon conversion on Pt- and Ni-surfaces
  - Force field development
  - Methanol conversion on Pt[111]
  - Ni/Cu/Co catalyzed nanotube formation
  - $H_2$  dissociation on a faceted  $Ni_{309}$ -particle



# Hydrocarbon oxidation

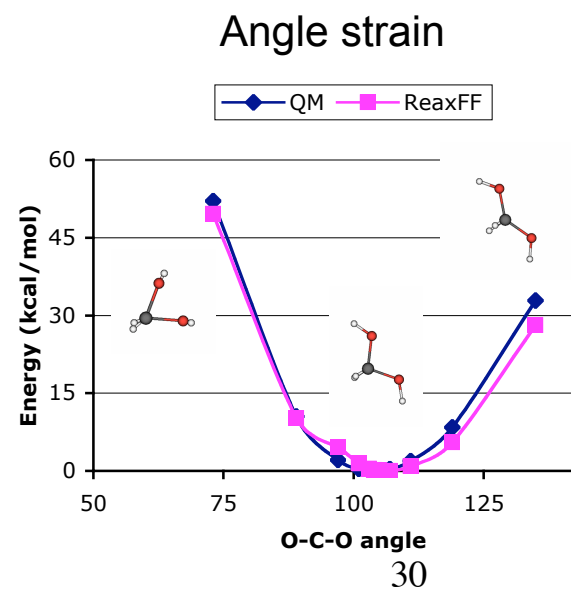
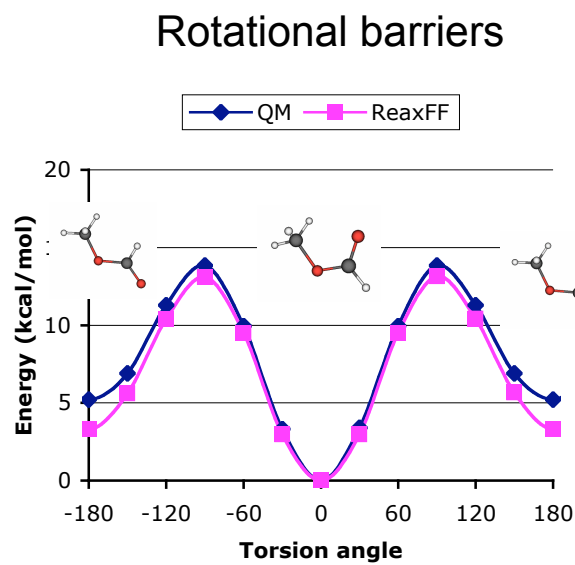
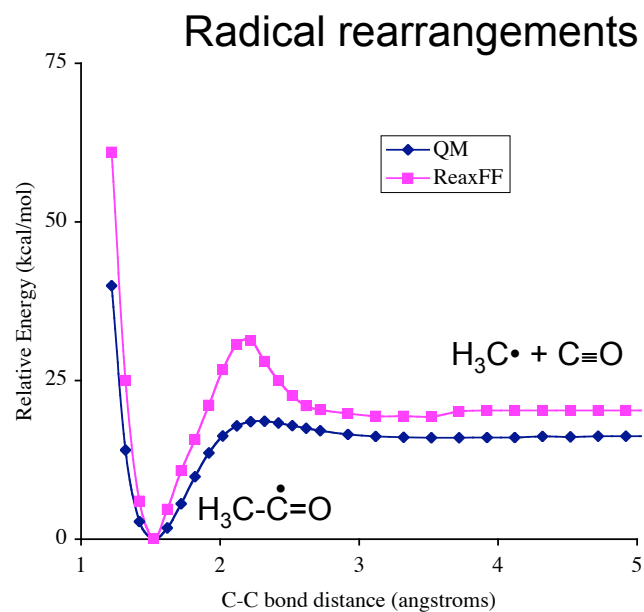
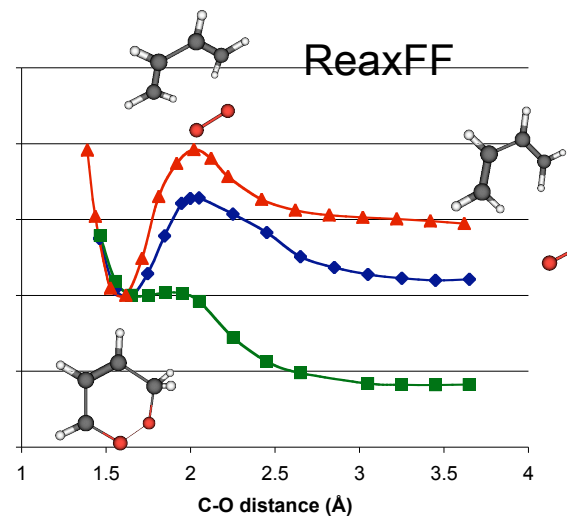
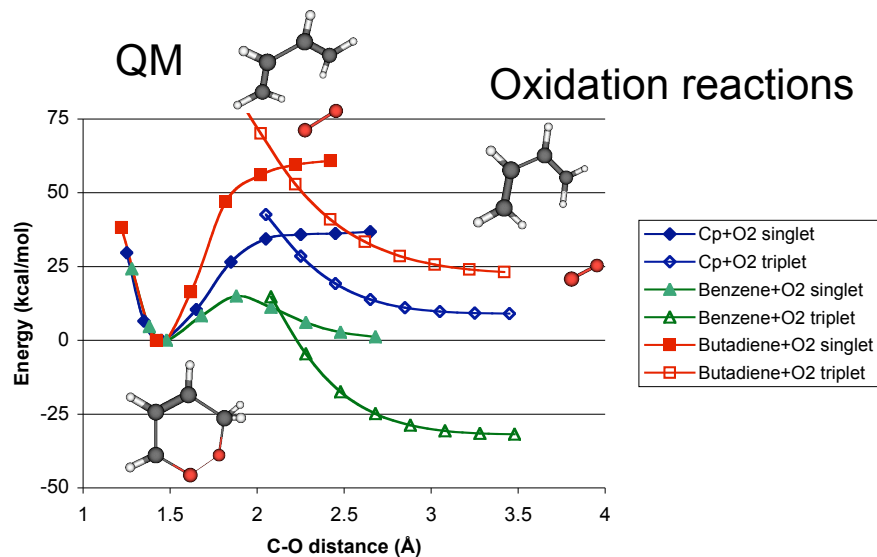
with Kimberly Chenoweth, Sanja Pudar, Mu-Jeng Cheng, Jonas Oxgaard and Bill Goddard



Mixed metal oxide catalyst ( $\text{Bi}_x\text{Mo}_y\text{V}_z\text{Te}_a\text{O}_b$ )

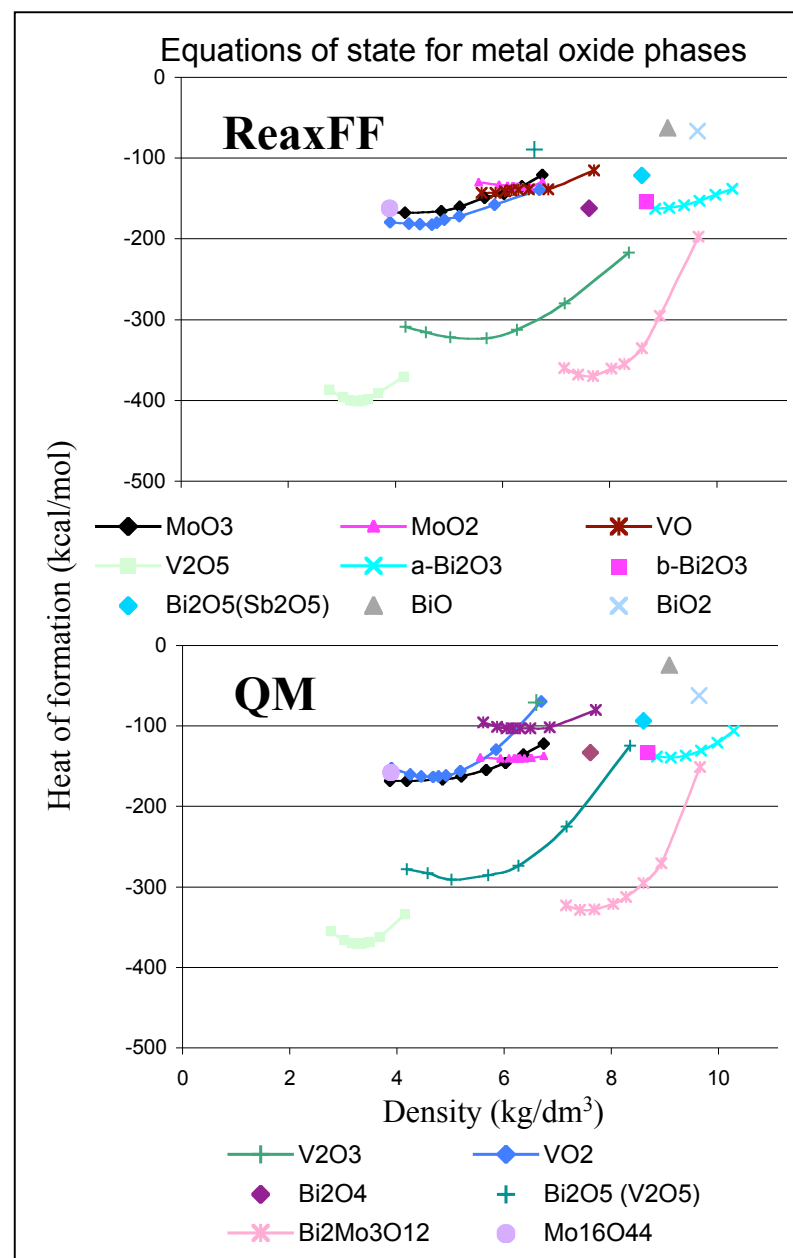
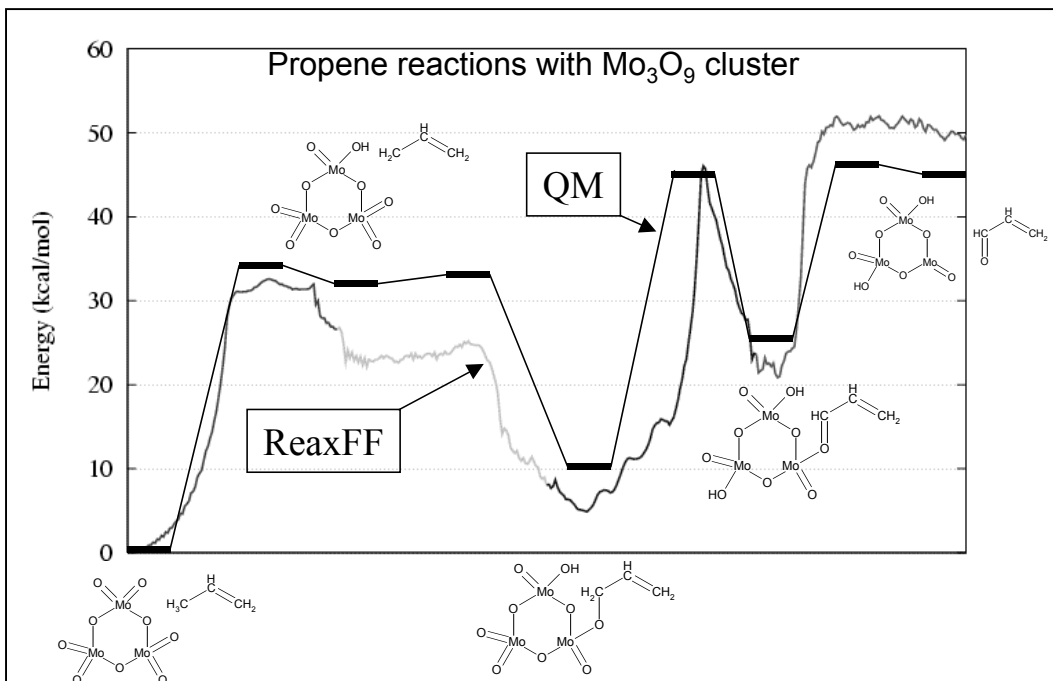
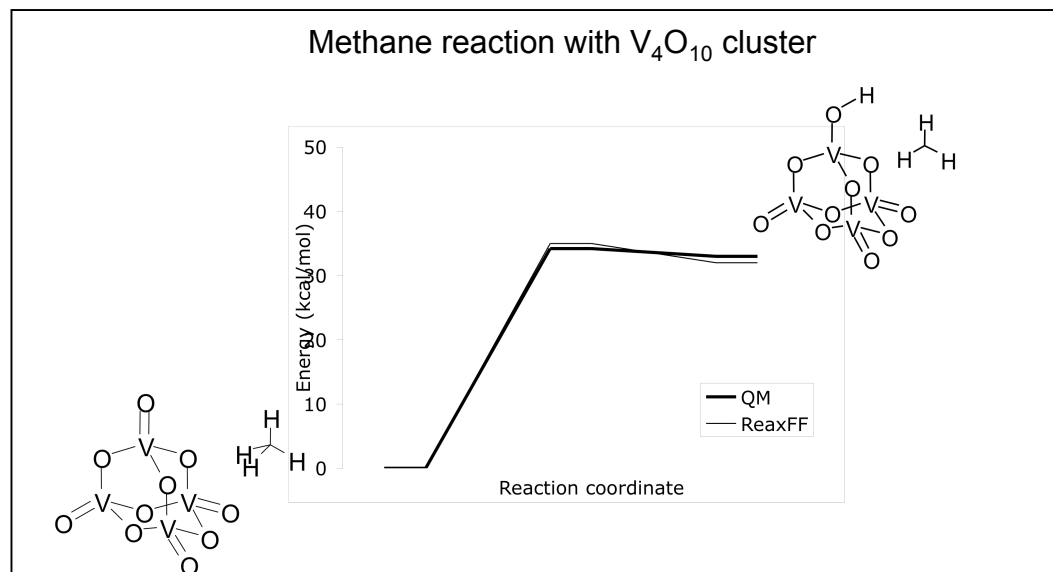
- Selective oxidation of propene using multi-metal oxide (MMO) catalysts
  - Accounts for majority of the 8 billion pounds of acrolein produced annually (4-5% yearly growth)
- Small improvements in catalytic efficiency can have major impact on energy requirements
- Understanding the process on a molecular level required to improve efficiency and/or selectivity
- Complicated structure MMO-catalysts make QM very expensive
- Develop ReaxFF based on QM-data, use ReaxFF to perform high-temperature simulations on catalyst/hydrocarbon reactions
- First, need to establish that ReaxFF can describe non-catalytic hydrocarbon combustion

# Force field development: hydrocarbon oxidation



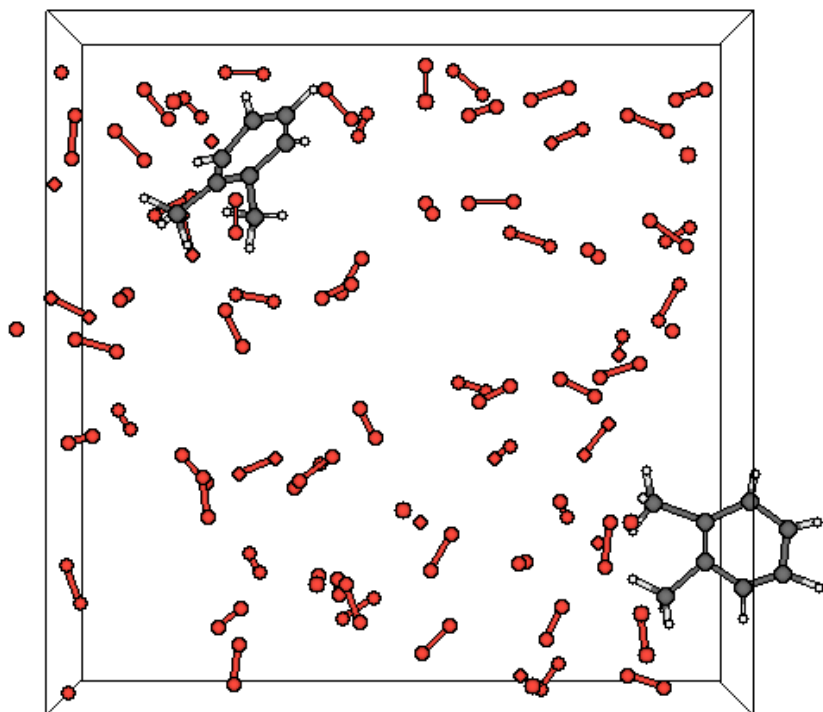
- total training set contains about 1700 compounds

# Force field development: metal oxides

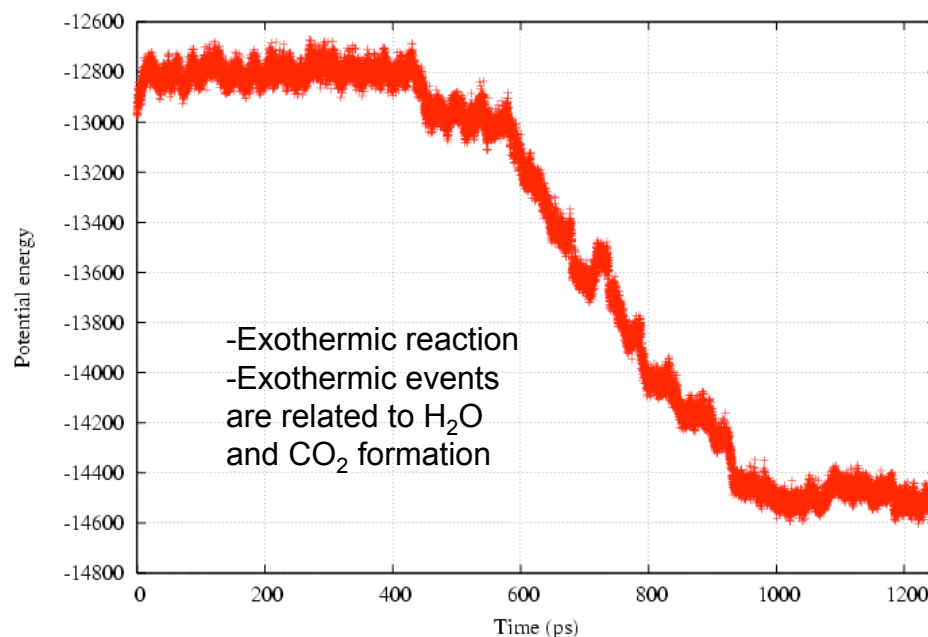
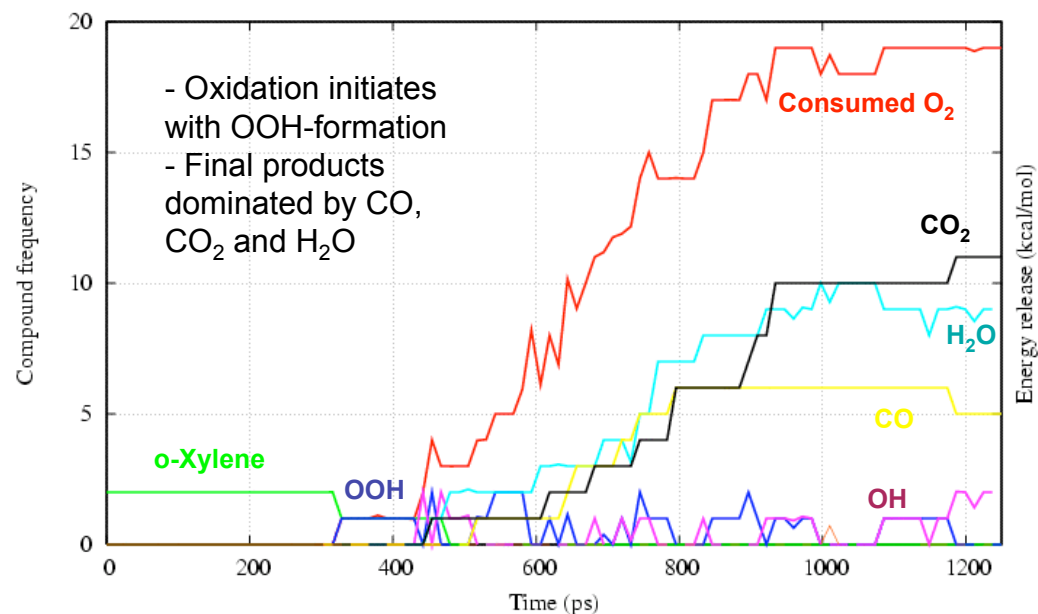


Goddard, van Duin, Chenoweth, Cheng, Pudar, Oxgaard, Merinov, Jang and Persson, Topics in Catalysis 2006

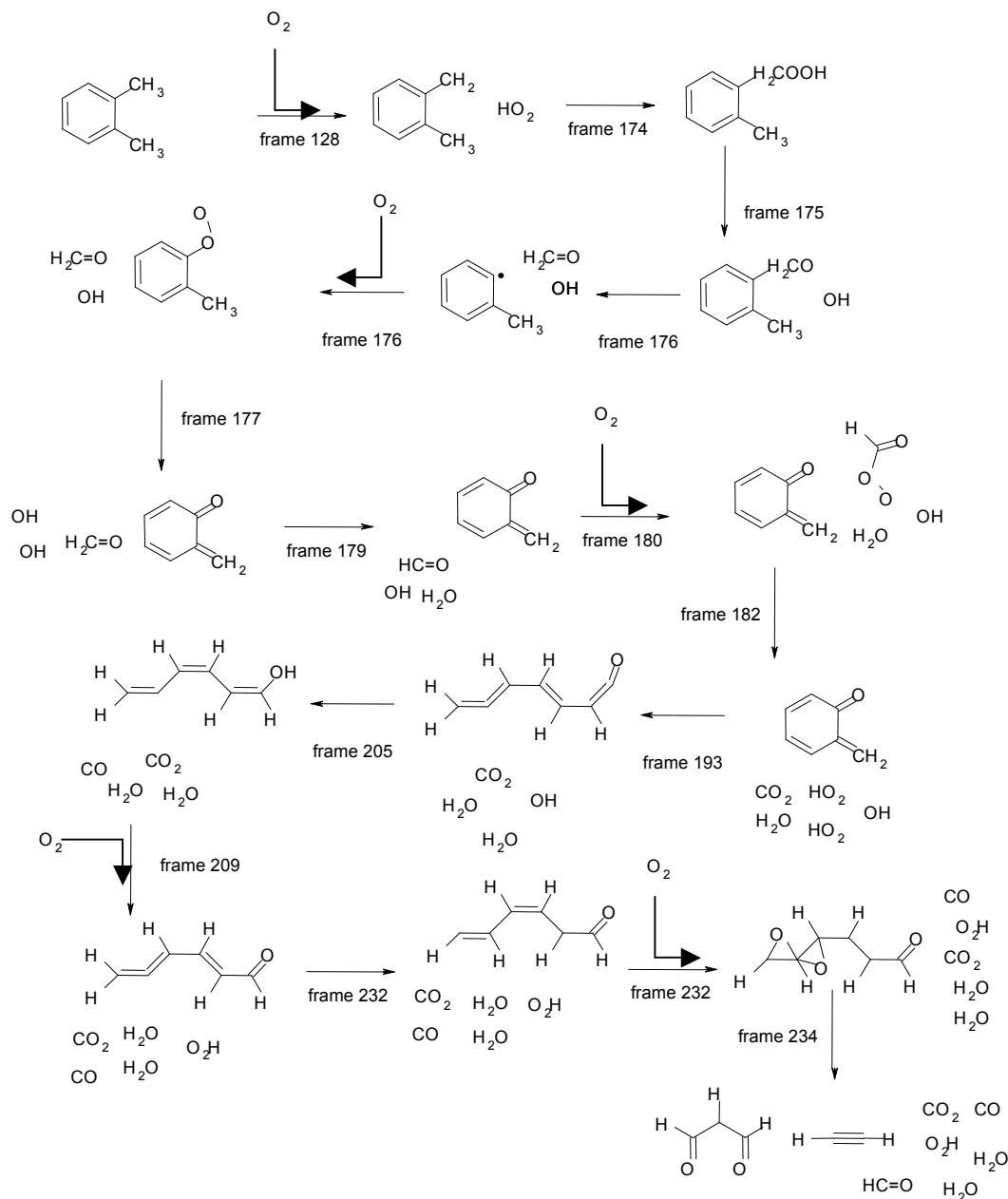
## Test ReaxFF CHO-description: oxidation of o-xylene



2 o-Xylene; 70 O<sub>2</sub> in 20x20x20 Angstrom box  
ReaxFF NVT/MD at T=2500K



# o-Xylene oxidation: Detailed reaction mechanism



- Reaction initiation with  $HO_2$ -formation

- Dehydrogenation occurs at methyl-groups, not at benzyl-hydrogens

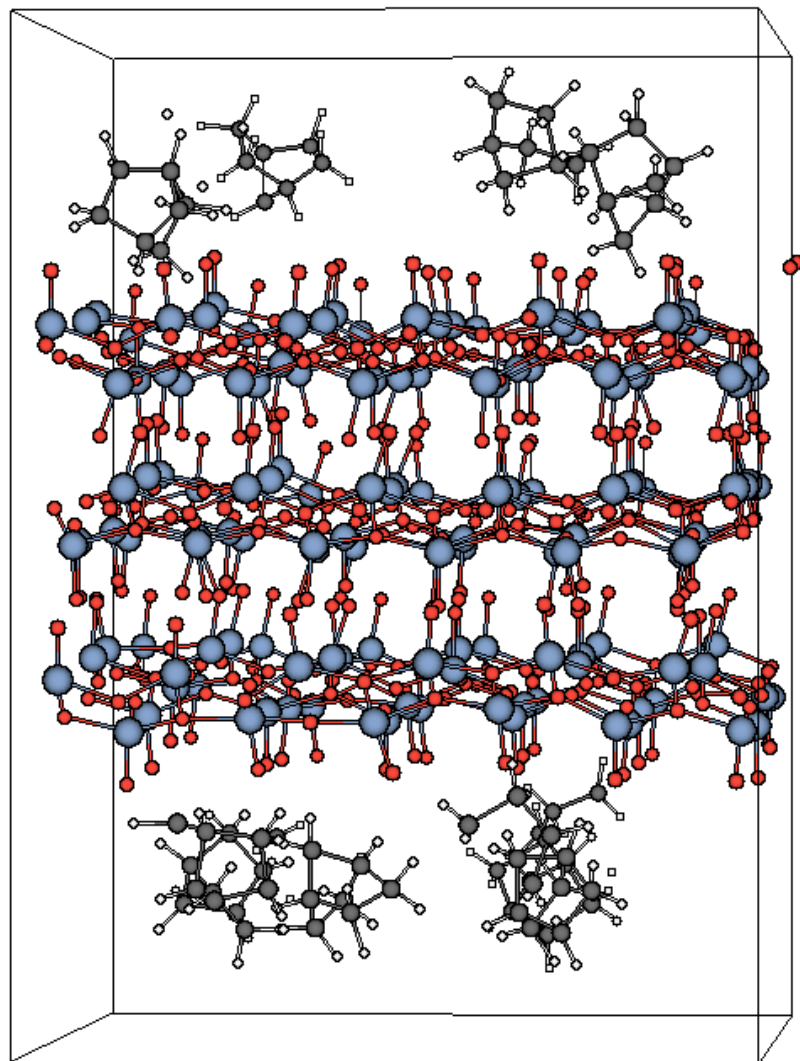
- Only after  $H_2C=O$  is formed and dissociated the benzene ring gets oxidized

- Ring opens shortly after destruction of aromatic system

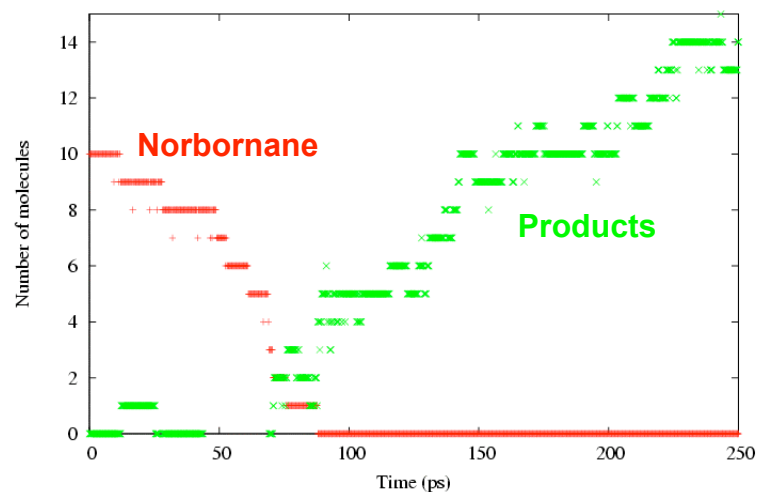
- Ring-opened structure reacts quickly with oxygen, forming  $CO_2$ ,  $H_2O$  and  $CO$

- ReaxFF gives sensible predictions that can be directly tested against QM

## $V_2O_5$ -catalyzed hydrocarbon oxidation



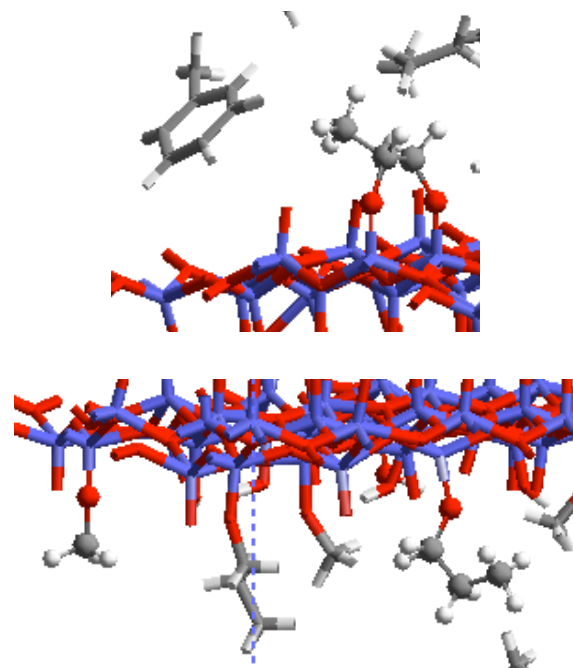
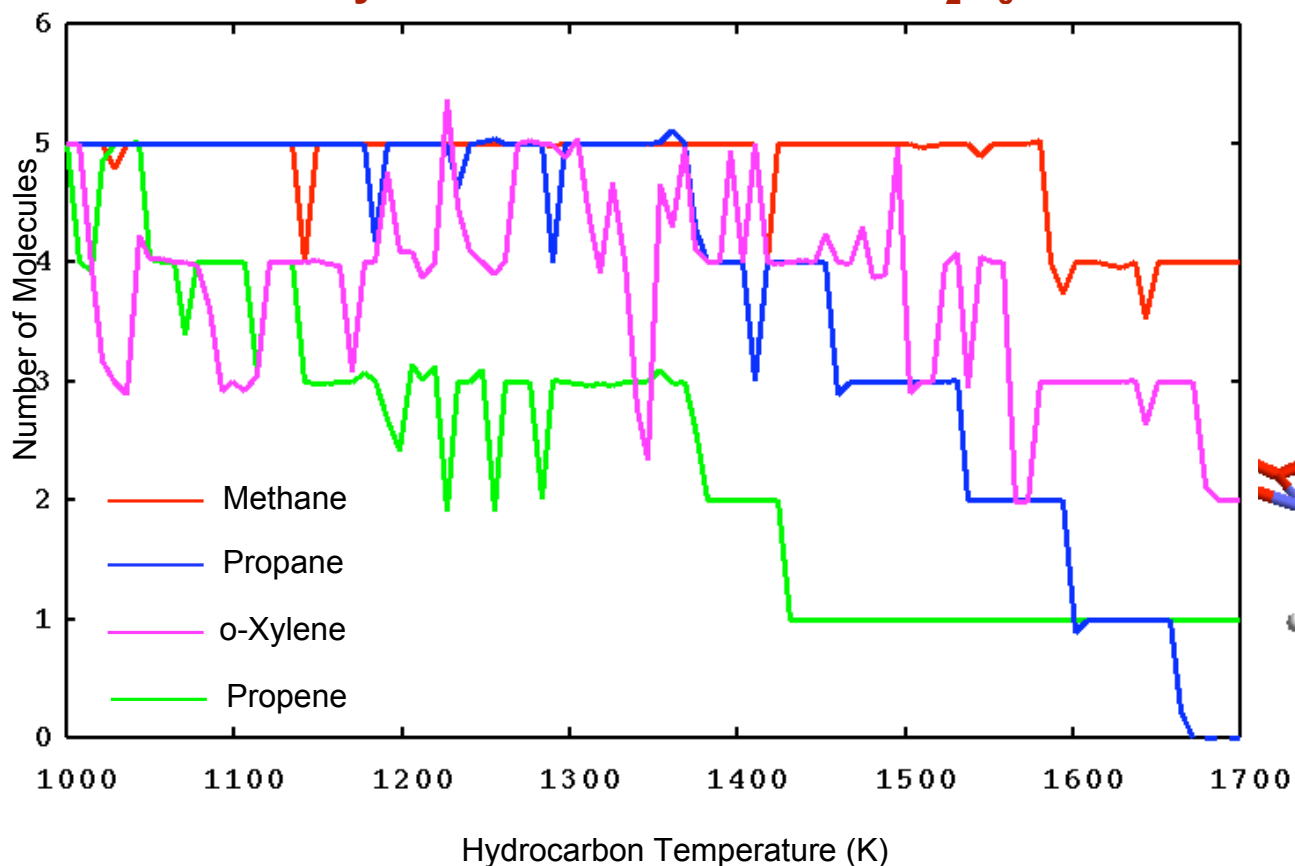
Norbornane/ $V_2O_5$ -system  
NVT/MD at T=1600K



- Predict relative activity of various metal oxide phases
- Predict reaction rates for different hydrocarbons
- Predict kinetics as a function of temperature/pressure/composition
- Find active sites; check with QM

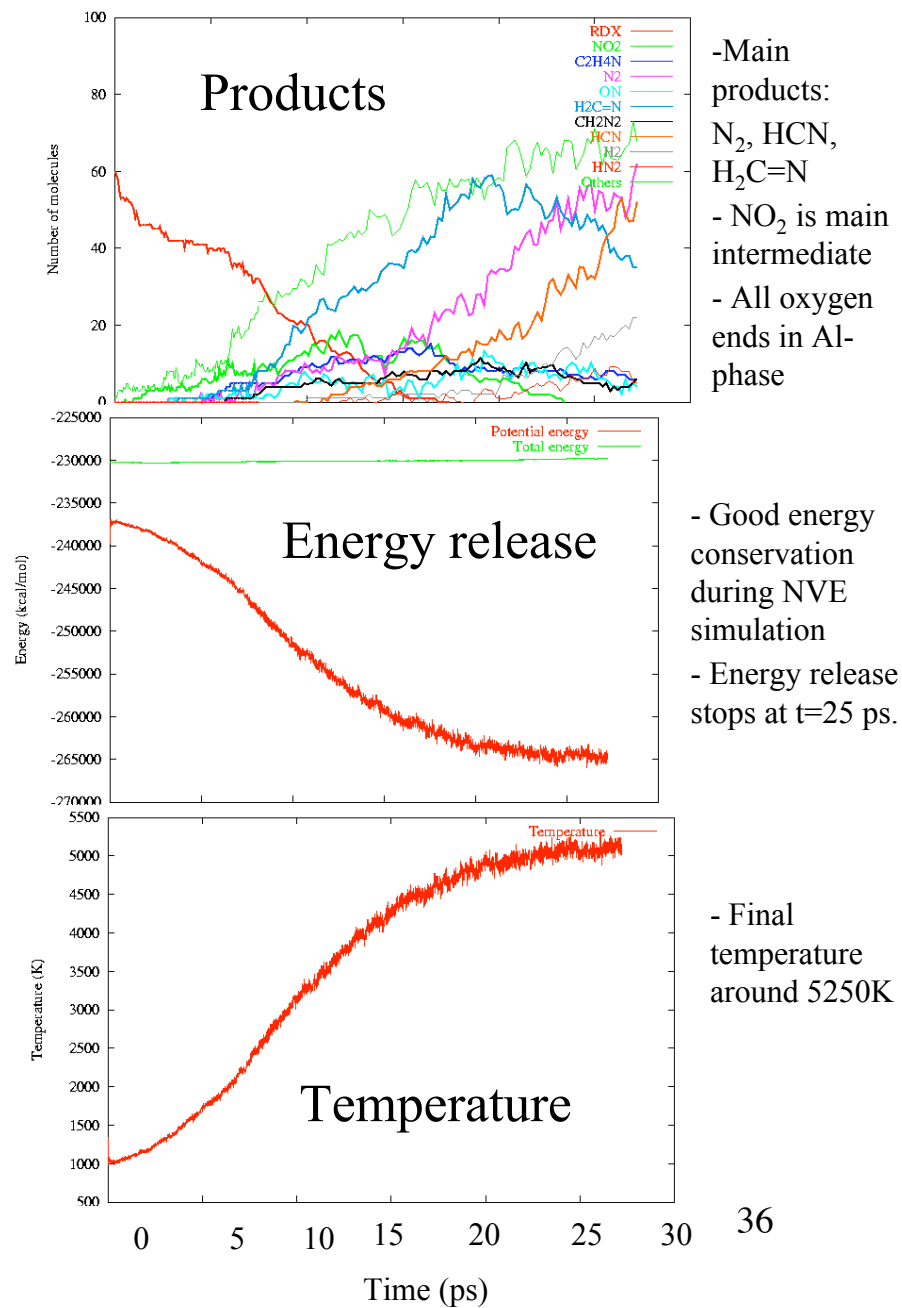
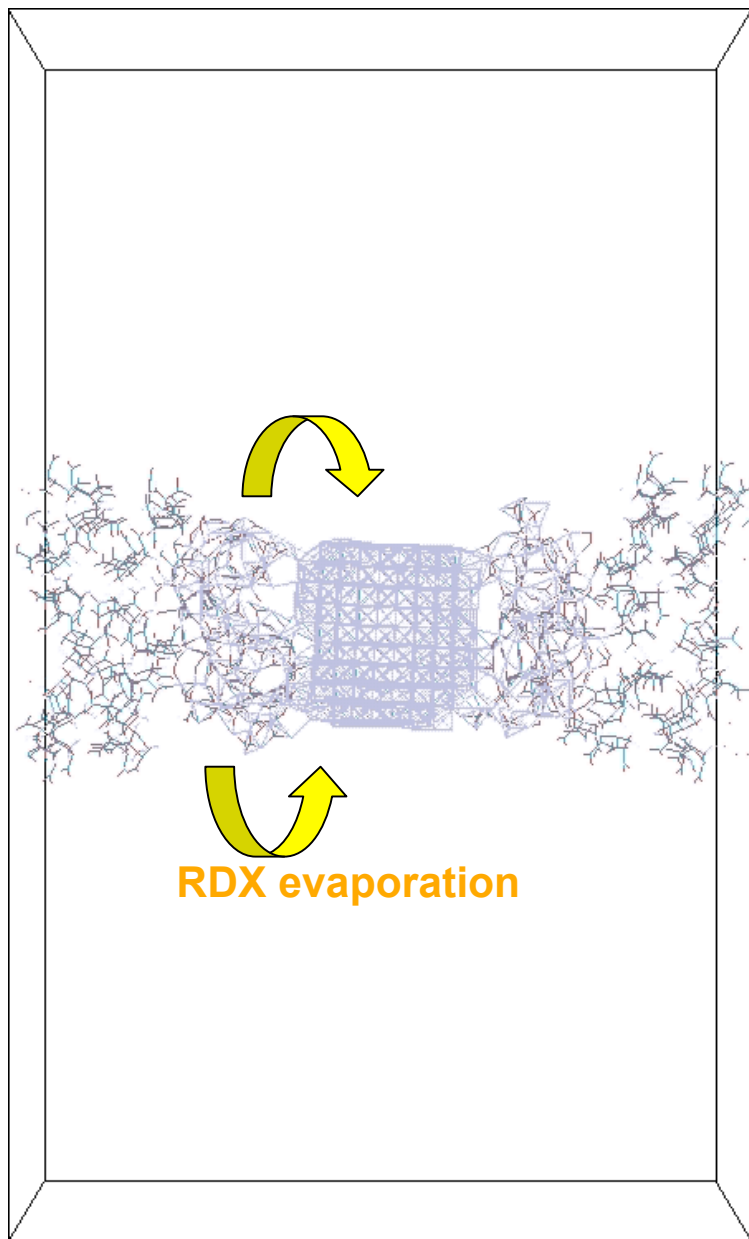
- Metal oxide slab (~600 atoms) kept at 500K and heatup hydrocarbons at 0.002K/fs for 125 ps
- Temperature control using Berendsen thermostat with 0.1 ps damping constant using a MD time step of 0.25fs

### Selective Hydrocarbon Activation on $V_2O_5$ Surface

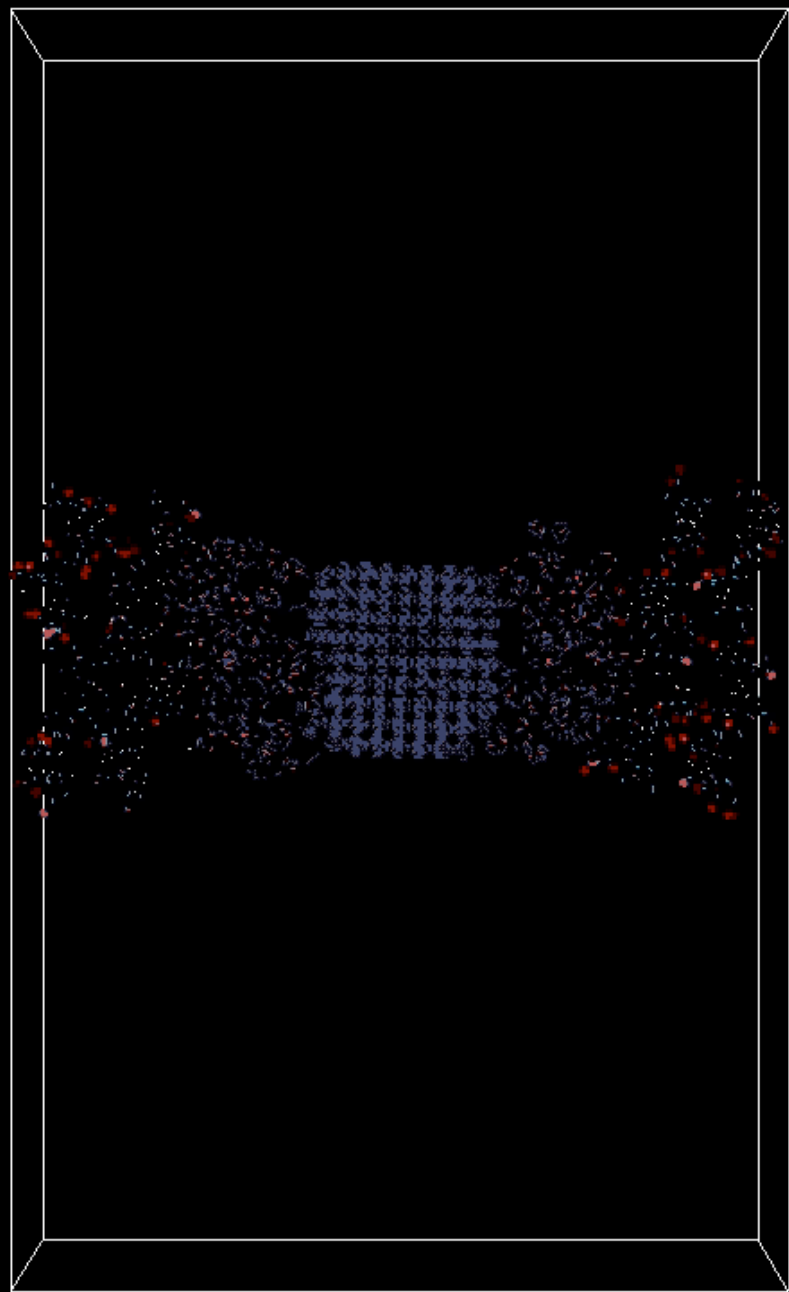


- Propene reacts first and methane reacts last which is consistent with C-H bond strength
- C-H Bond Strength: Propene < o-Xylene < Propane < Methane

# Multicomponent combustion: gas/surface burning in a Al/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/nitramine system







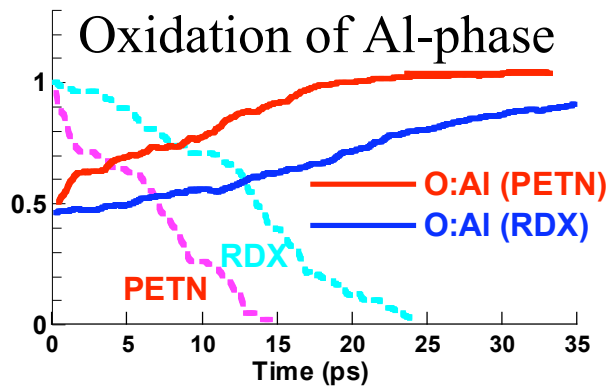
## Comparison of ISP for different systems

	Mass kg/mol	Energy kcal/mol	$T_{\text{final}}$	$I_{sp, \text{max}}$
<b>PETN</b> +Al/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	<b>37.52</b>	<b>30527</b>	<b>5520 K</b>	<b>267 s</b>
<b>RDX</b> +Al/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	<b>37.25</b>	<b>27474</b>	<b>5113 K</b>	<b>254 s</b>

Initial compositions (PETN has better oxygen balance):

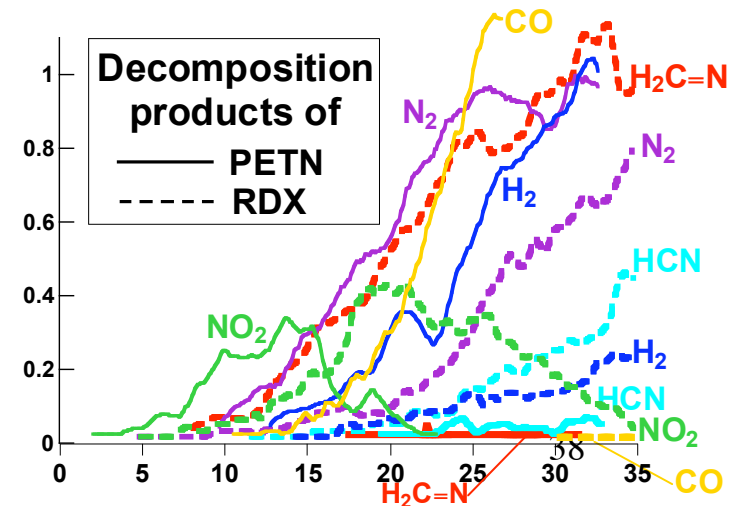
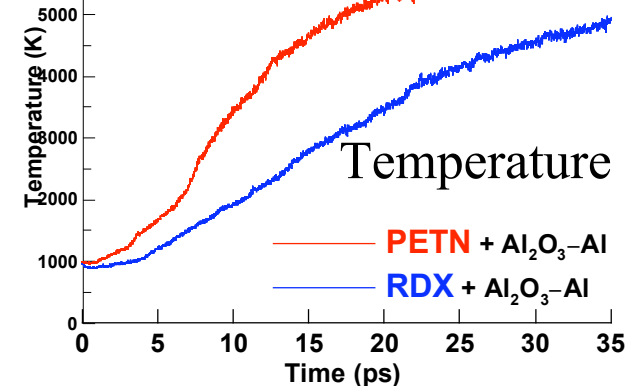
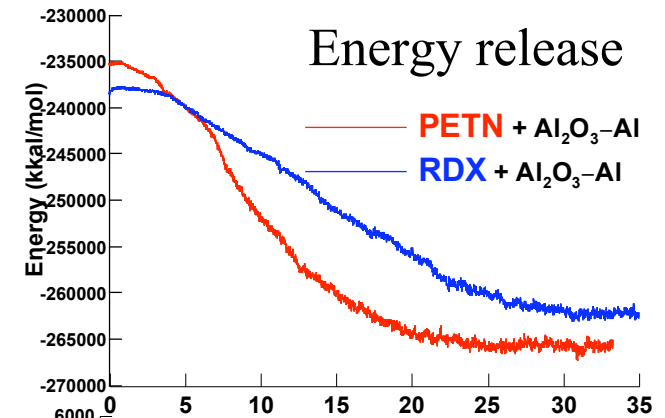
**PETN:**  $43 \times \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_{12}\text{N}_4 + \text{Al}_{462}/\text{Al}_{238}\text{O}_{326}$  **RDX:**  $58 \times \text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}_6\text{N}_6 + \text{Al}_{462}/\text{Al}_{238}\text{O}_{326}$

Final compositions: **PETN:**  $\text{Al}_{665}\text{O}_{704}\text{N}_{36}\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{85}$  **RDX:**  $\text{Al}_{671}\text{O}_{623}\text{N}_{72}\text{C}_8\text{H}_{38}$



- Initial temperature  $T_0=1000\text{K}$  for both systems
- PETN provides more oxygen for Al-phase oxidation
- Rate of oxidation of Al-phase is higher for PETN-based propellant

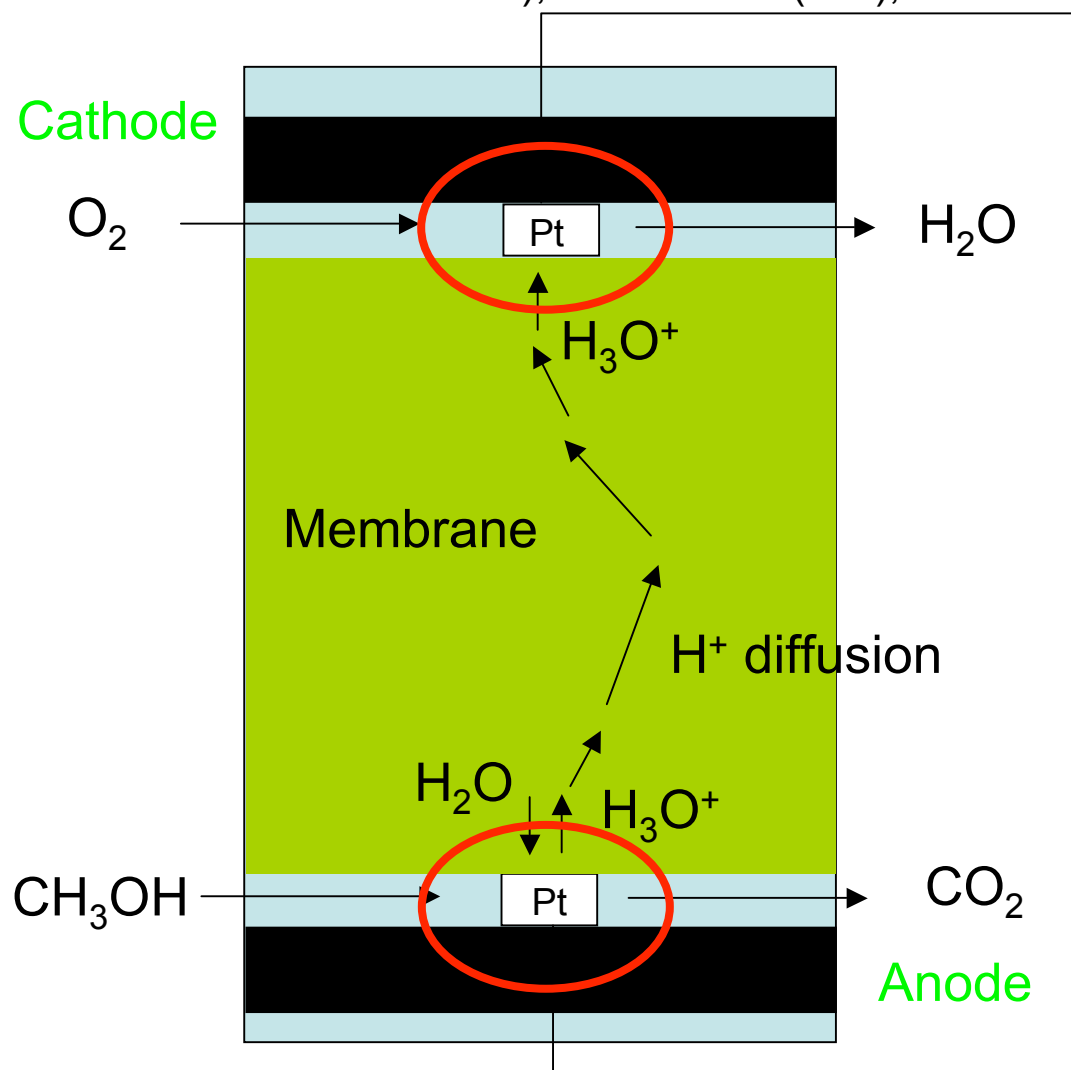
- Rate of PETN decomposition is higher than of RDX.
- PETN exhibits faster dissociation of  $\text{NO}_2$ -fragments which initiate early burning of Al-metal surface.
- PETN provides higher oxidation rate of Al-phase and larger final stoichiometry (~13%) of the oxidized Al in comparison with RDX.
- Decomposition products are also different: PETN-composite does produce very little  $\text{H}_2\text{CN}=\text{N}$ , HCN, but more  $\text{N}_2$ , CO, and  $\text{H}_2$



- ReaxFF: background, rules and current development status
- Stress-induced crack propagation
  - Integration of ReaxFF in a multi-paradigm computational framework (CMDF)
  - ReaxFF/Tersoff/CMDF simulations on crack propagation in silicon
  - Influence of corrosion on crack propagation
- Hydrocarbon combustion and metal-oxide catalyzed hydrocarbon oxidation
  - Force field development
  - Simulations on o-Xylene combustion
  - $V_2O_5$ -catalyzed hydrocarbon conversion
- Hydrogen and hydrocarbon conversion on Pt- and Ni-surfaces
  - Force field development
  - Methanol conversion on Pt[111]
  - Ni/Cu/Co catalyzed nanotube formation
  - $H_2$  dissociation on a  $Ni_{309}$ -particle

## Fuel cells: anode/cathode catalysis

Collaborators: Sang Soo Han, Seung Soon Han, Valeria Molinero, Yun Hee Yang (GIST, Korea), Timo Jacob (FHI), Boris Merinov and Bill Goddard

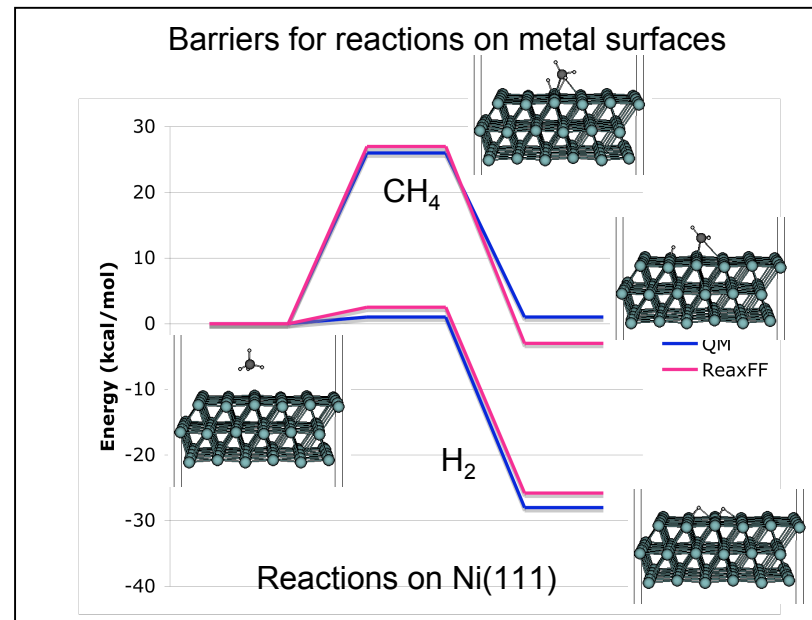
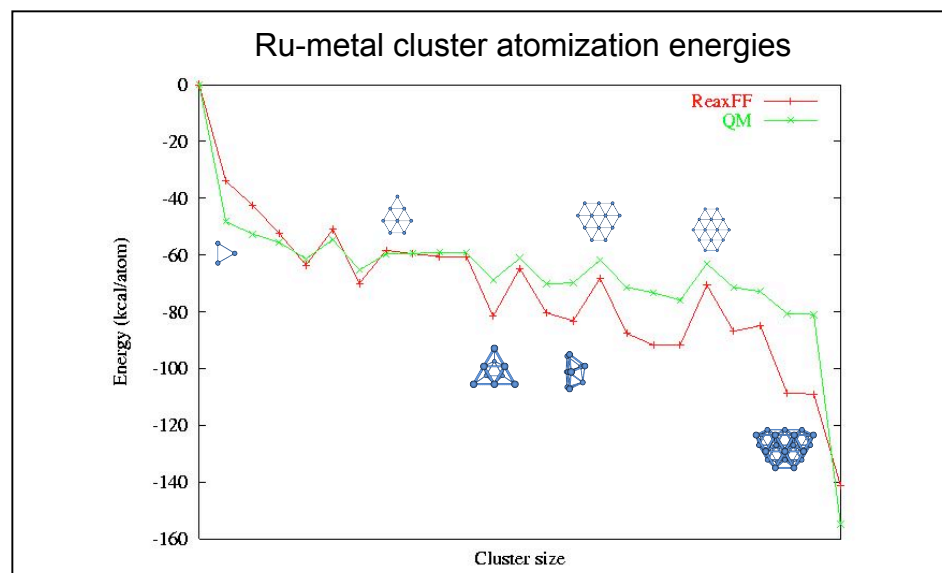
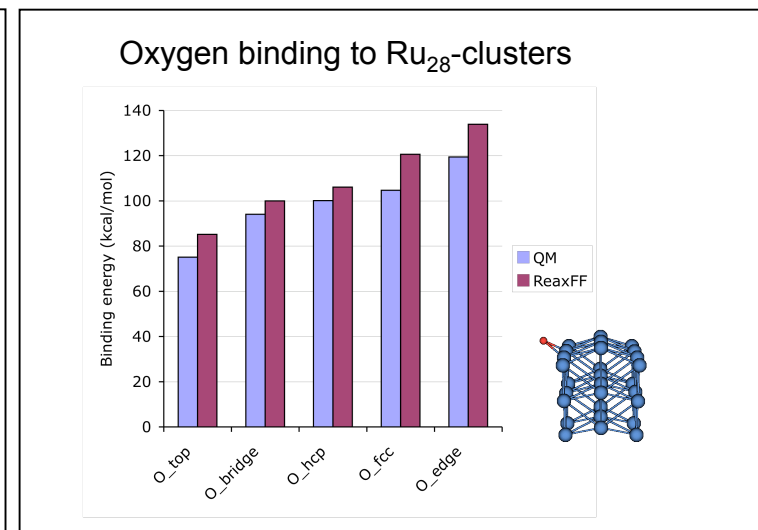
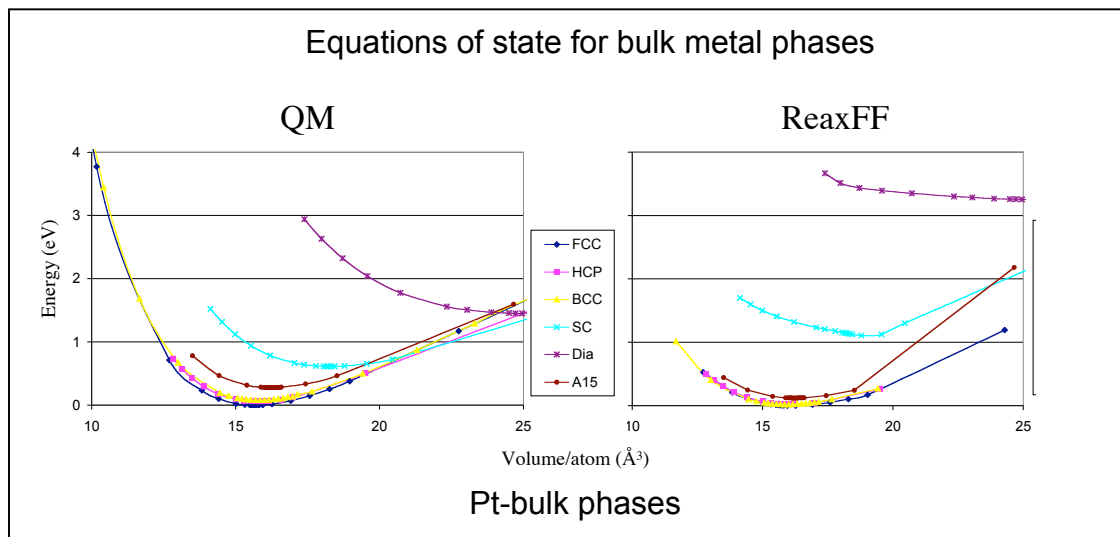


- Aim: perform atomistic scale reactive dynamics simulation on a realistic model of the entire fuel cell
- Complicated chemistry, need relatively large system to capture all aspects
- Use QM-data on isolated systems to parameterize ReaxFF, then use ReaxFF on full system

Direct methanol fuel cell

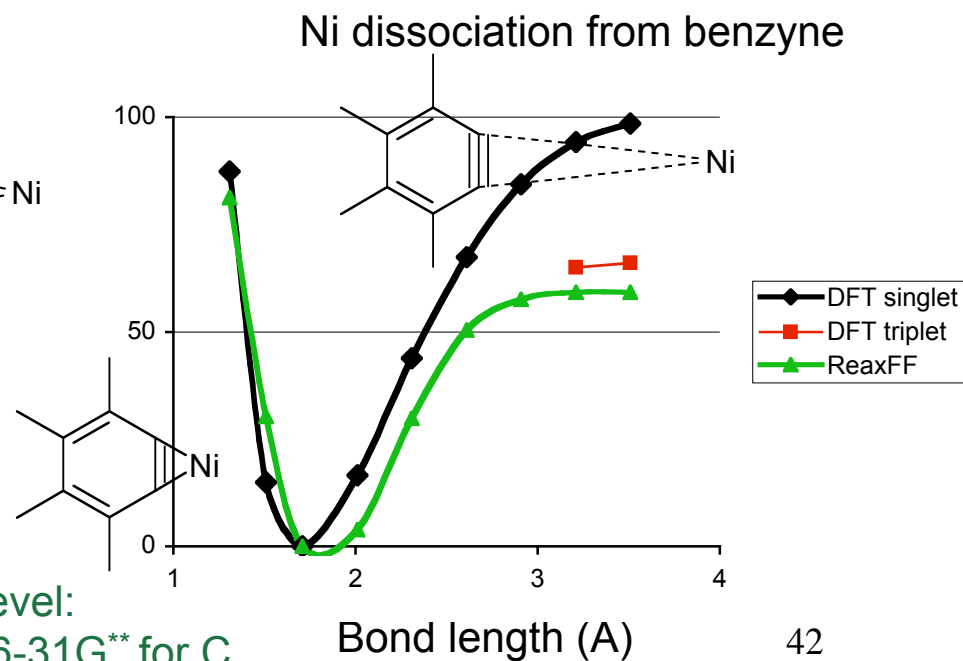
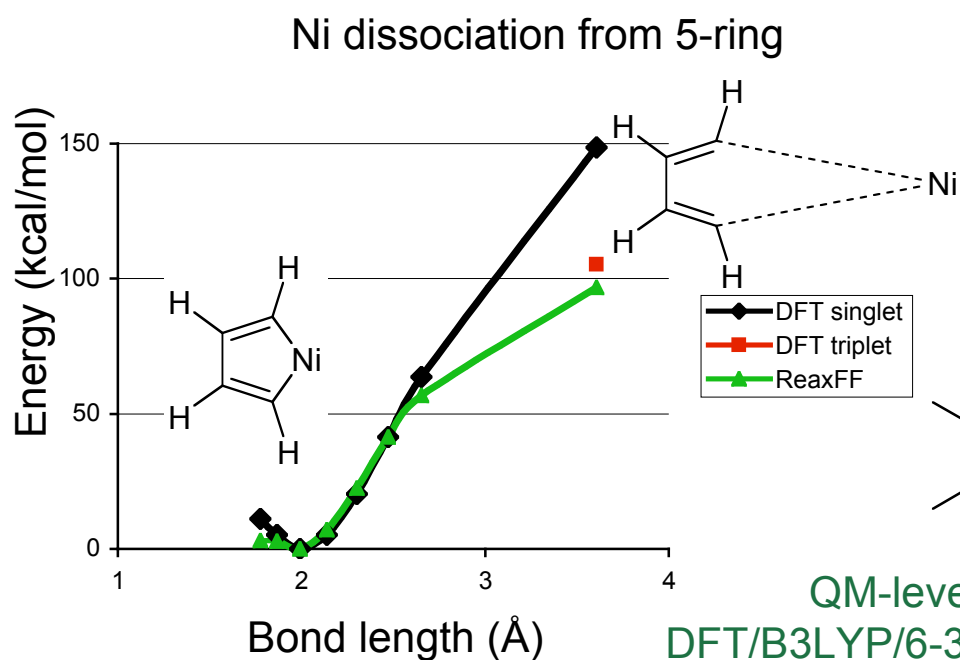
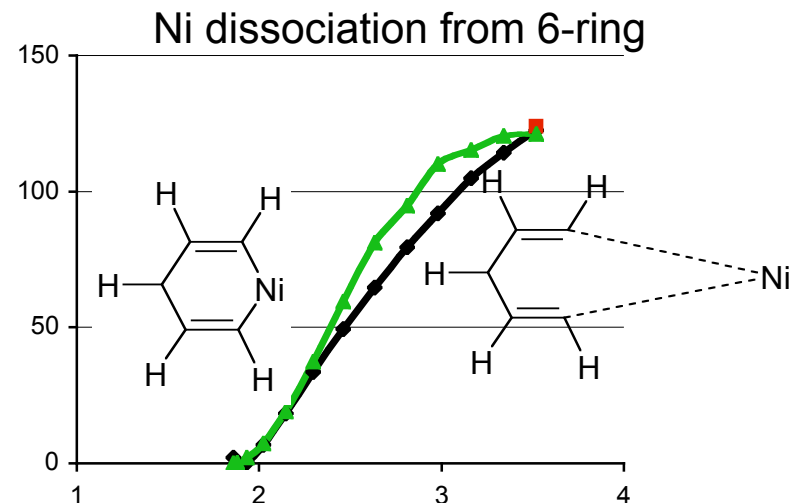
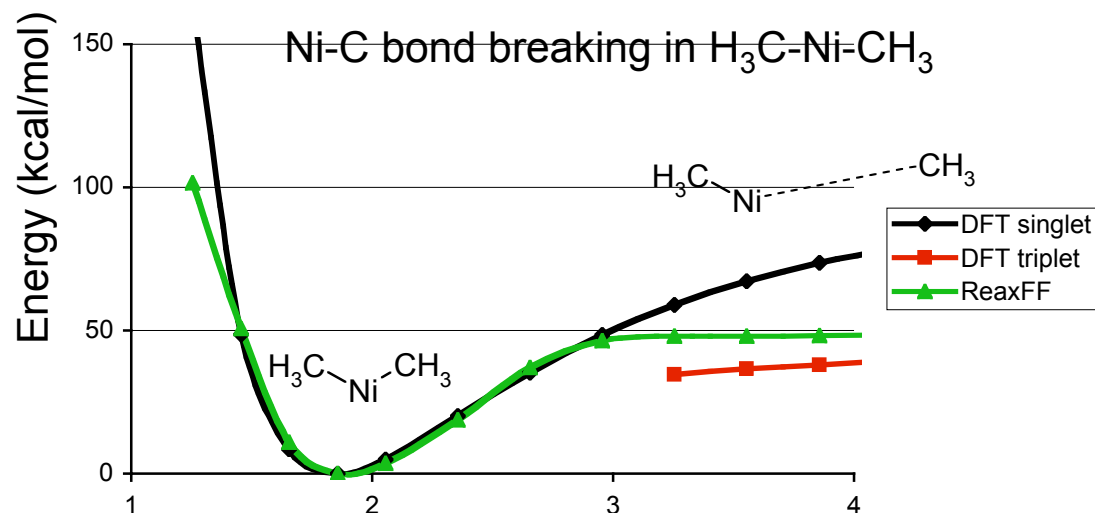
# Force field development

## 1. Bulk metal, metal clusters and metal surfaces



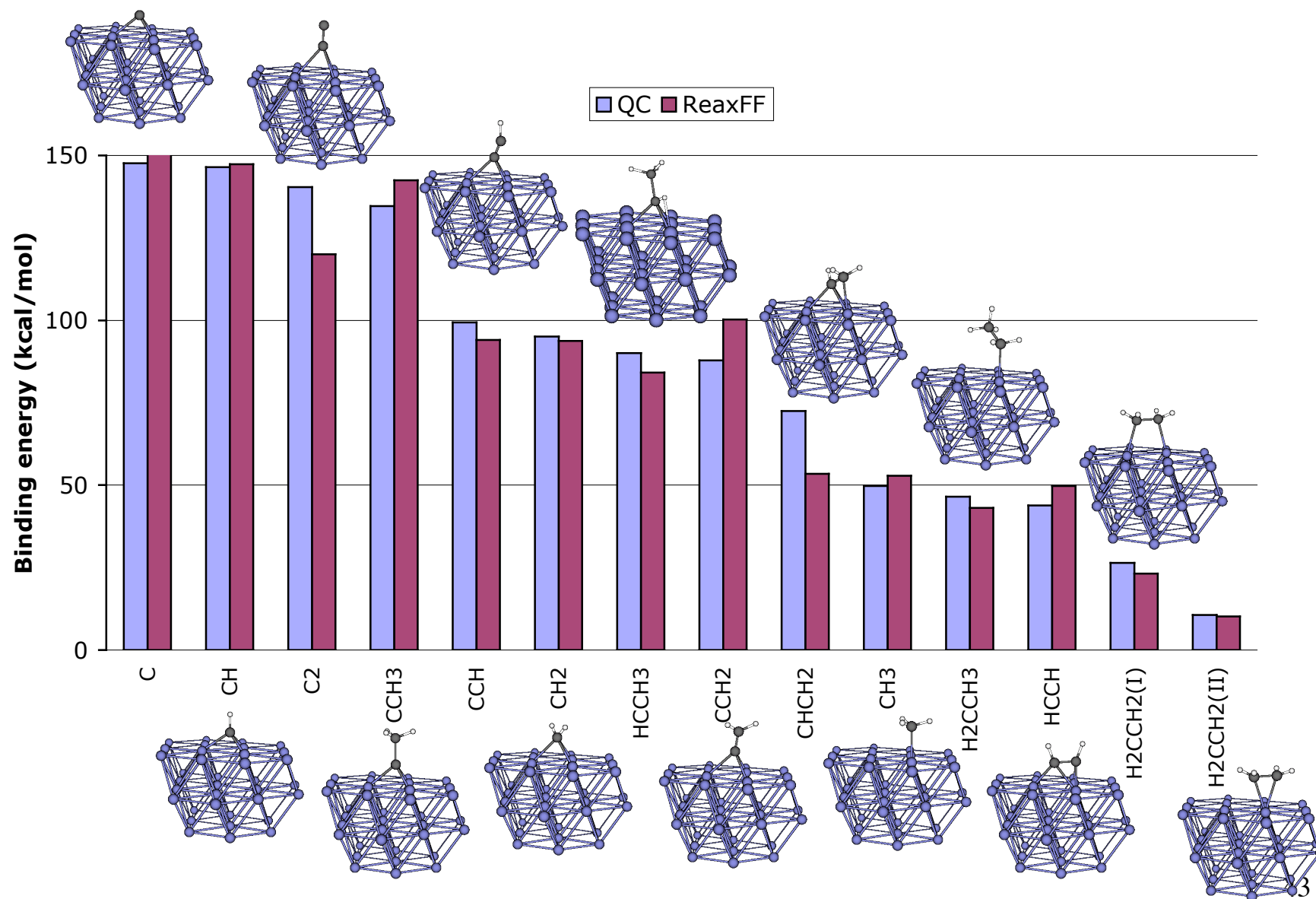
- ReaxFF parameters available for Na, Mg, Ca, Ba, Ti, V, Co, Ni, Cu, Al, Y, Zr, Mo, Te, Ba, Ru, Pt and Bi-metals

## 2. Ni/hydrocarbon clusters

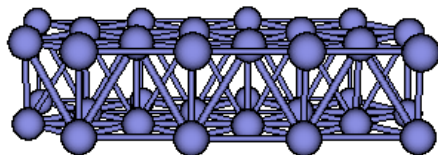
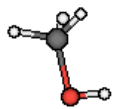
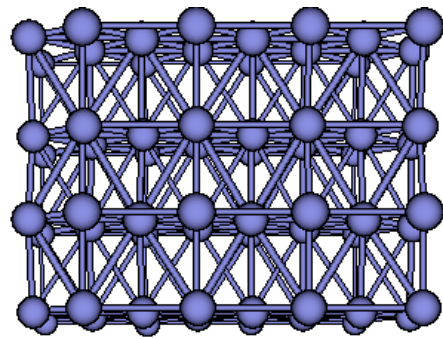


QM-level:  
DFT/B3LYP/6-31G\*\* for C  
DFT/B3LYP/LACVP\*\* for Ni

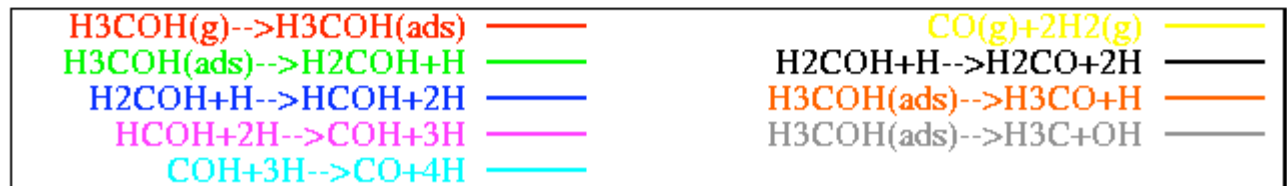
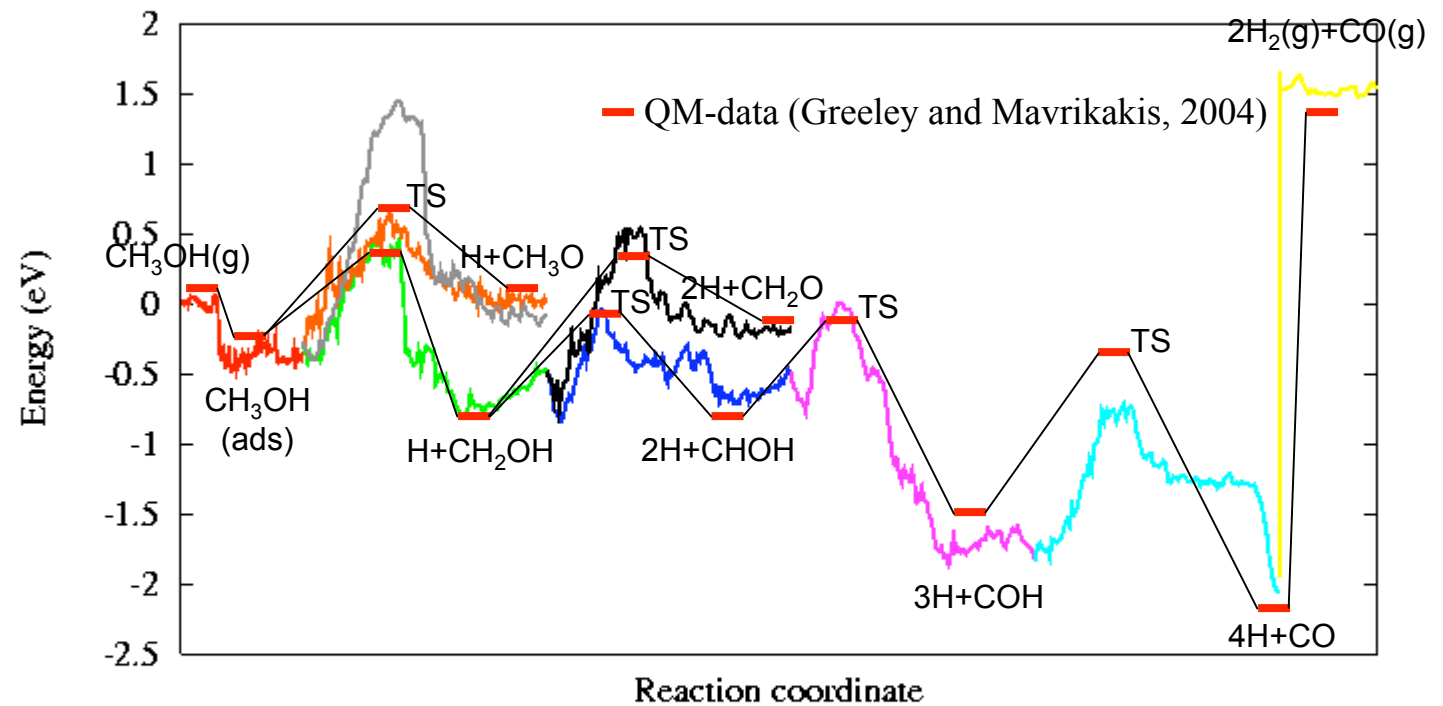
### 3. Hydrocarbon binding to Pt<sub>35</sub>-clusters



## 4. Reaction pathways



Methanol reaction on Pt[111] surface



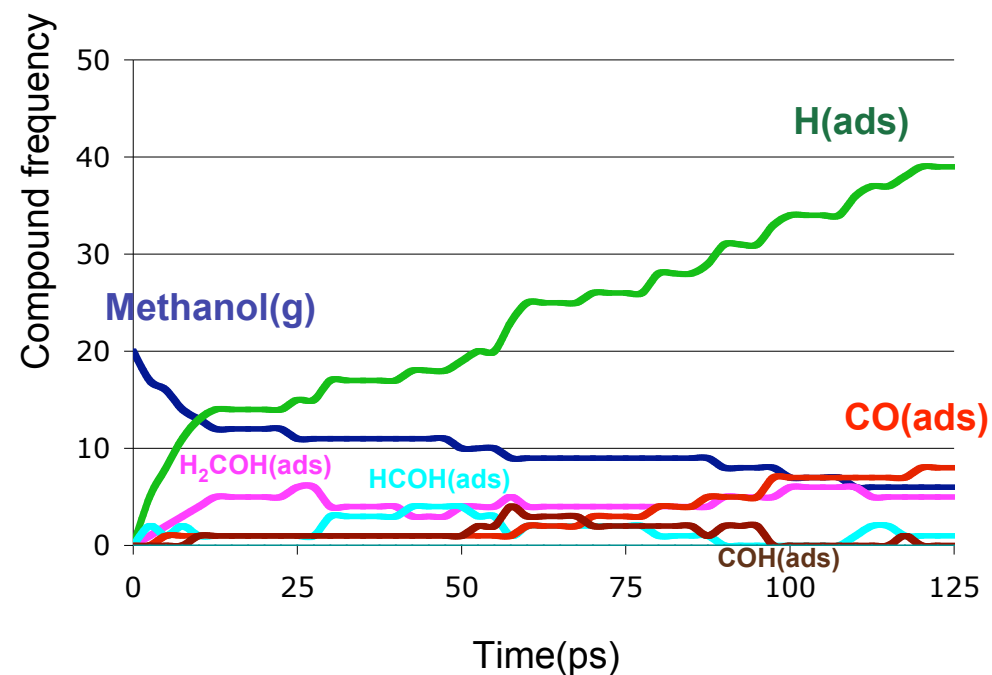
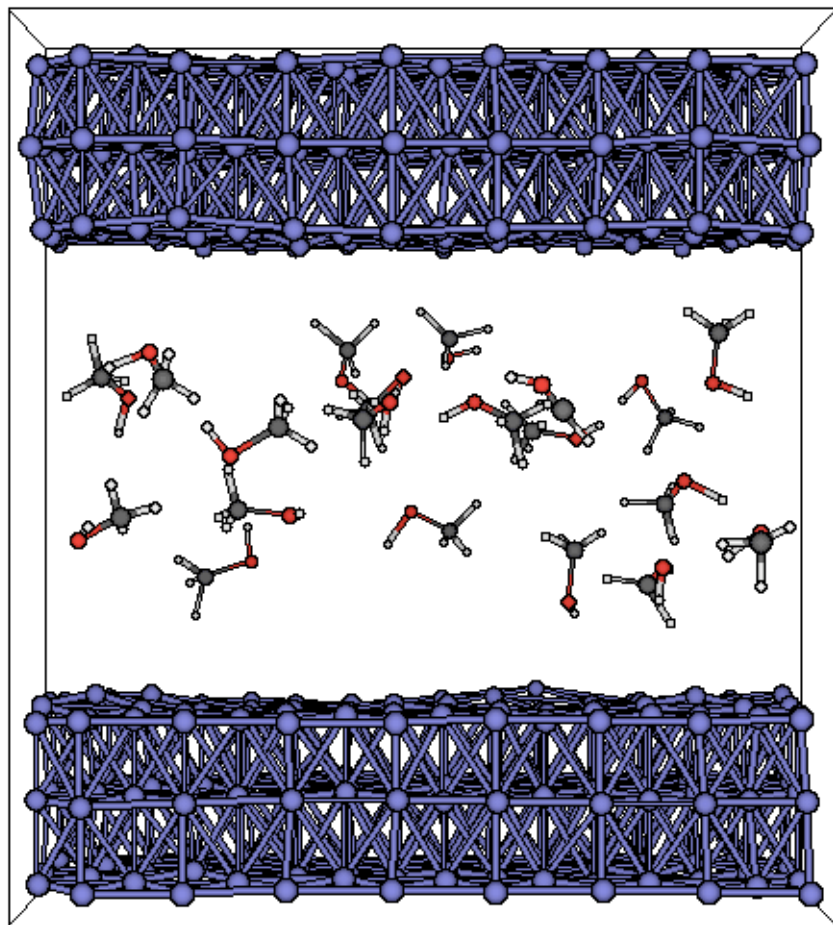
- Excellent agreement between ReaxFF and QM for entire reaction path



# Applications of the Ni/Pt ReaxFF potentials

## 1. Methanol conversion on Pt[111]-surface

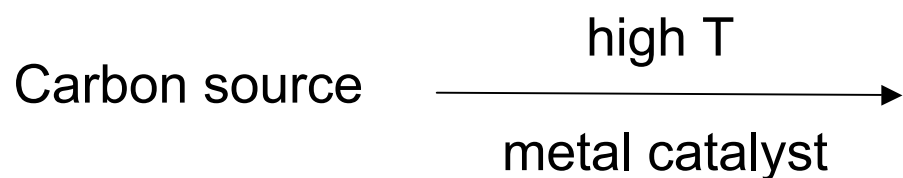
MD-simulation at T=1250K on methanol/Pt[111]



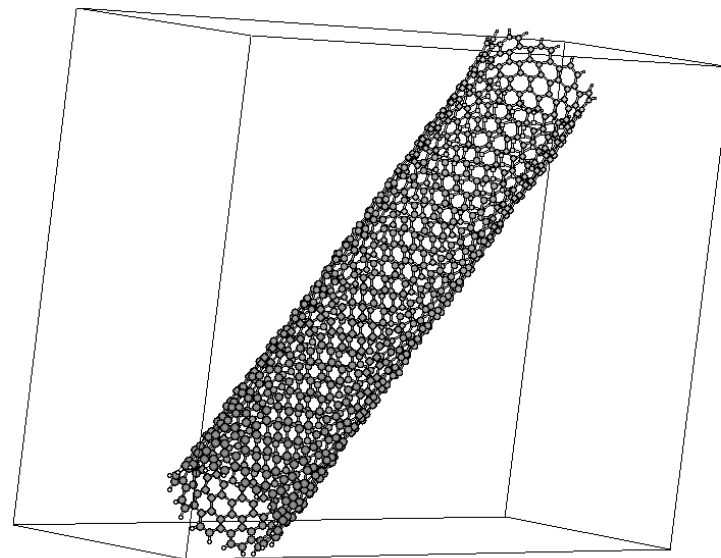
- Methanol dissociates on Pt-surface, generating adsorbed hydrogen
- CO accumulates on surface (poisoning)
- ReaxFF descriptions for Ti, Mo, V, Bi, Ru, Ni under development

## 2. Ni/Co/Cu catalyzed nanotube formation

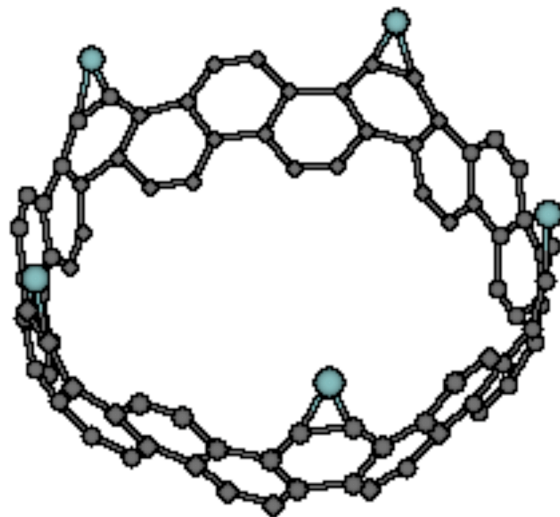
Collaborators: Si-ping Han, Kevin Nielson, Weiqiao Deng, Jonas Oxgaard, Mark Lusk (CSM) and Bill Goddard



- Synthesis mechanism not clear
- Metal influences reaction product (single, double wall, nanotube diameter, nanotube/buckyball ratio)



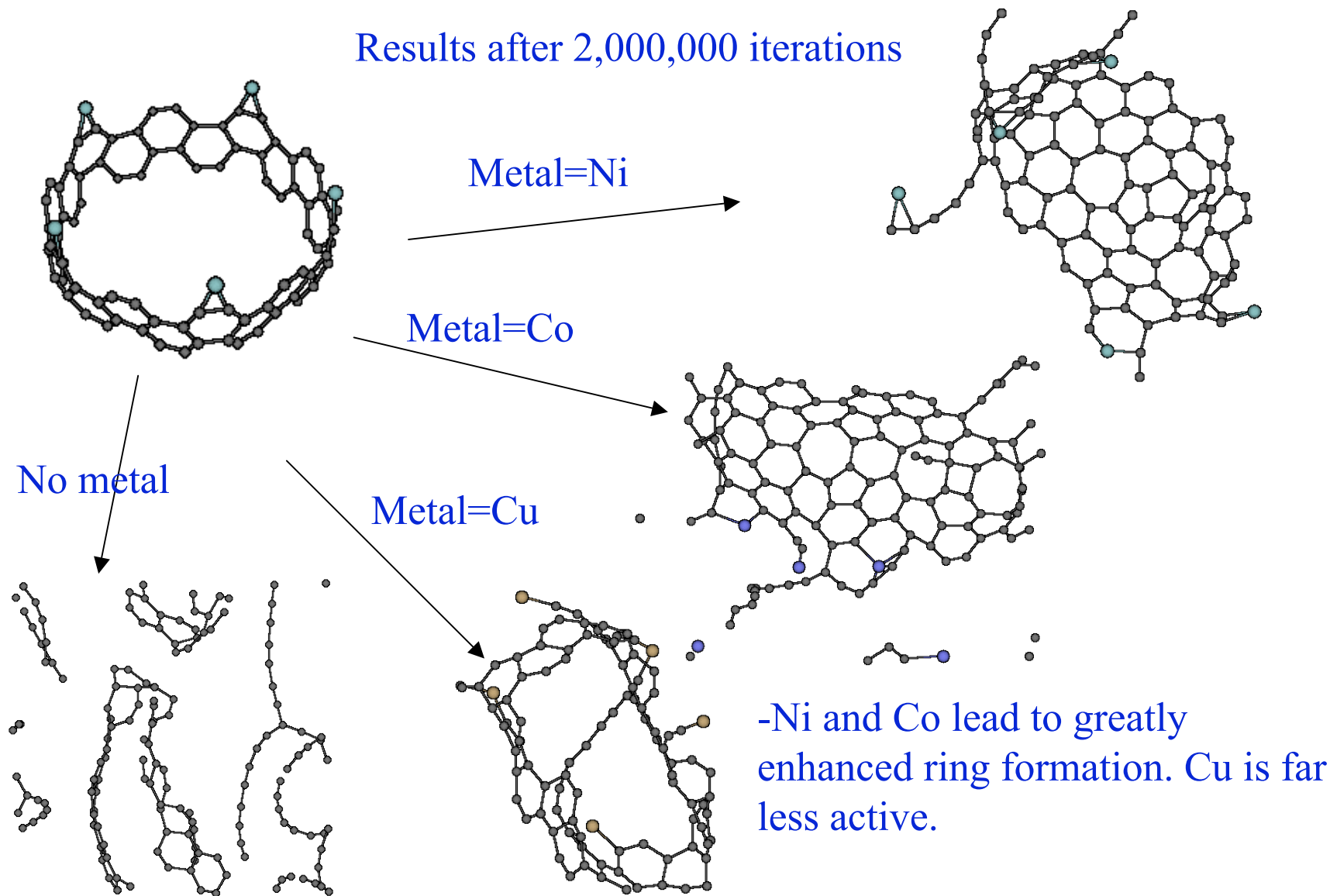
Nanotube



- Ni-atoms can grab  $C_2$ -monomers and fuse them as new 6-membered rings

- Start configuration: 20  $C_6$ -rings, 5 metal atoms on edge
- NVT simulation at 1500K
- Add  $C_2$ -molecule every 100,000 iterations

Results after 2,000,000 iterations



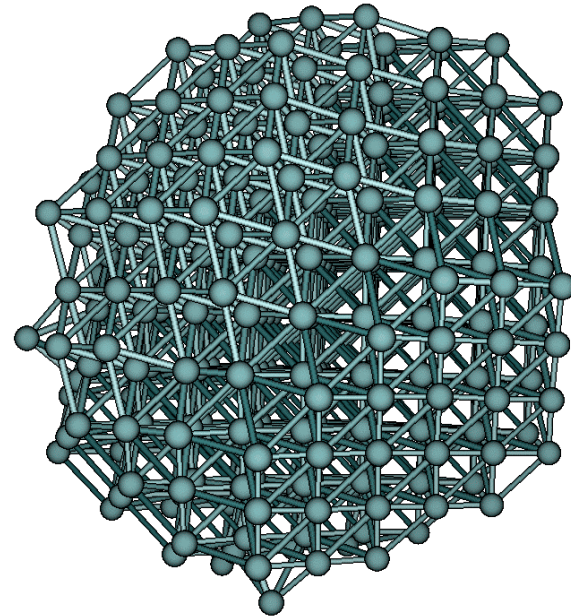
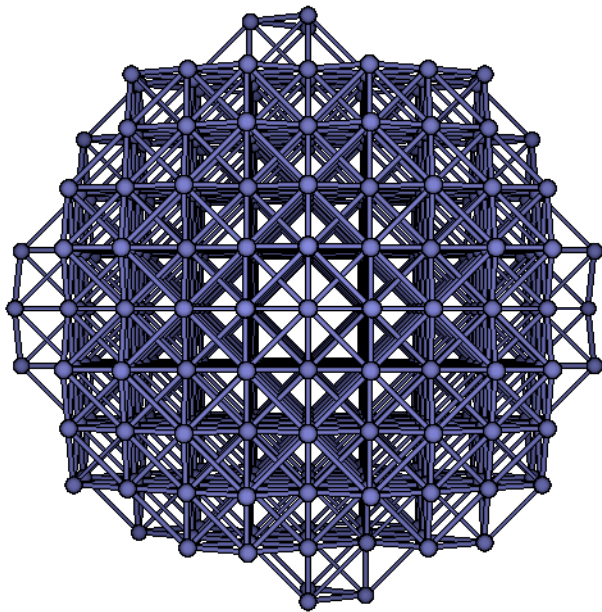
-Ni and Co lead to greatly enhanced ring formation. Cu is far less active.

### 3. H<sub>2</sub> dissociation on a Ni<sub>309</sub>-particle

#### Preparation of the Ni<sub>309</sub>-particle

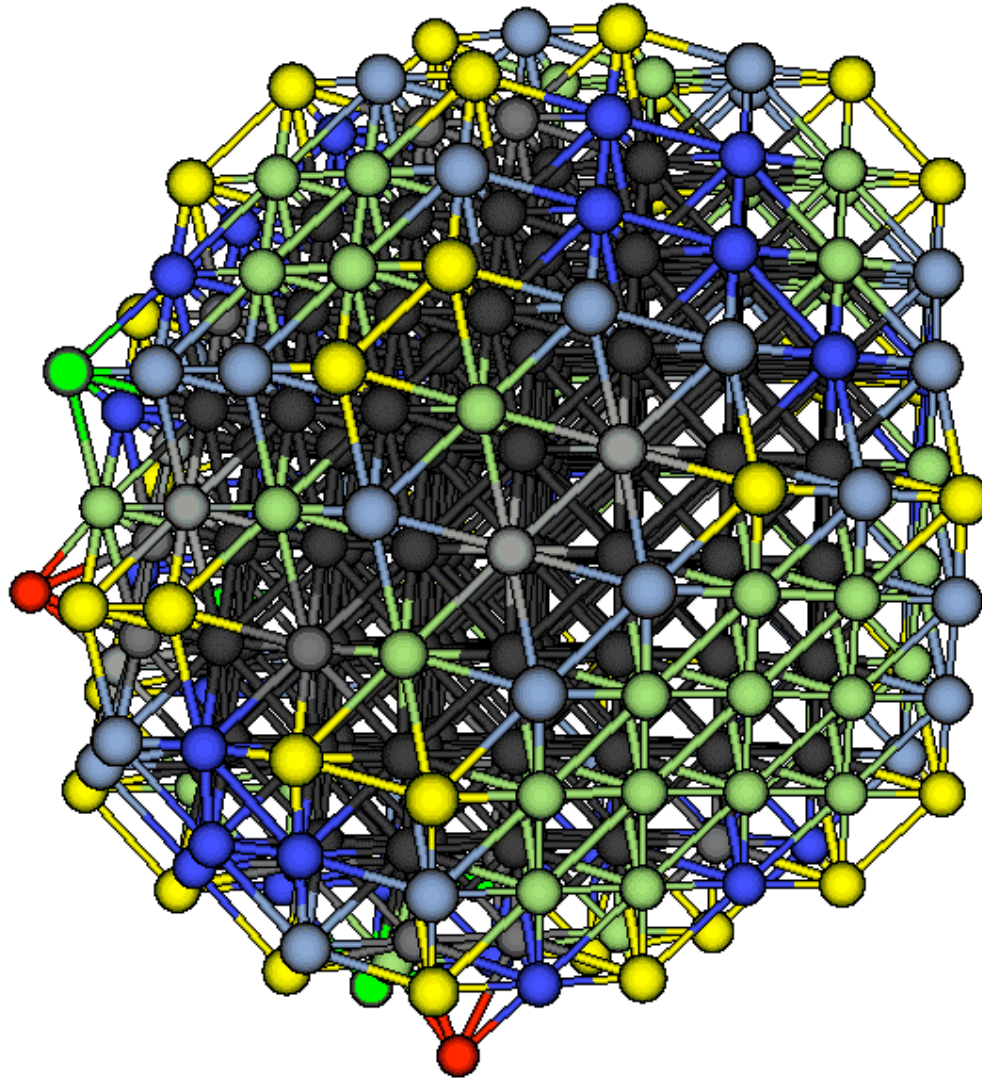
Initial configuration: sphere in fcc-configuration

- Heat up to 1600K to melt surface
- Cool down to 300K to form surface facets
- [111] surface dominate
- Core retains fcc-configuration





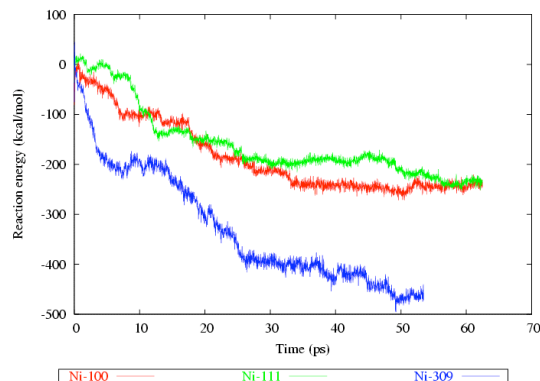
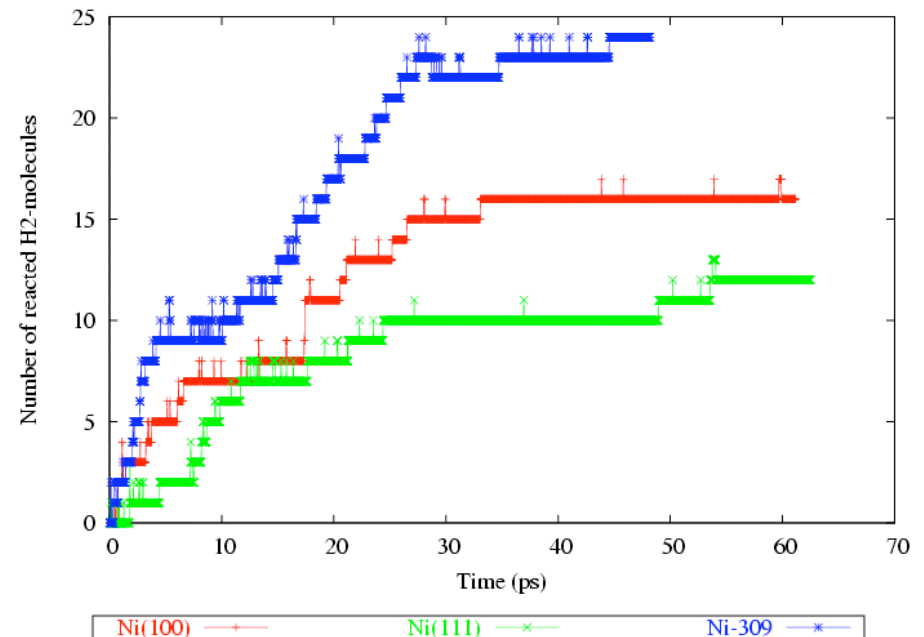
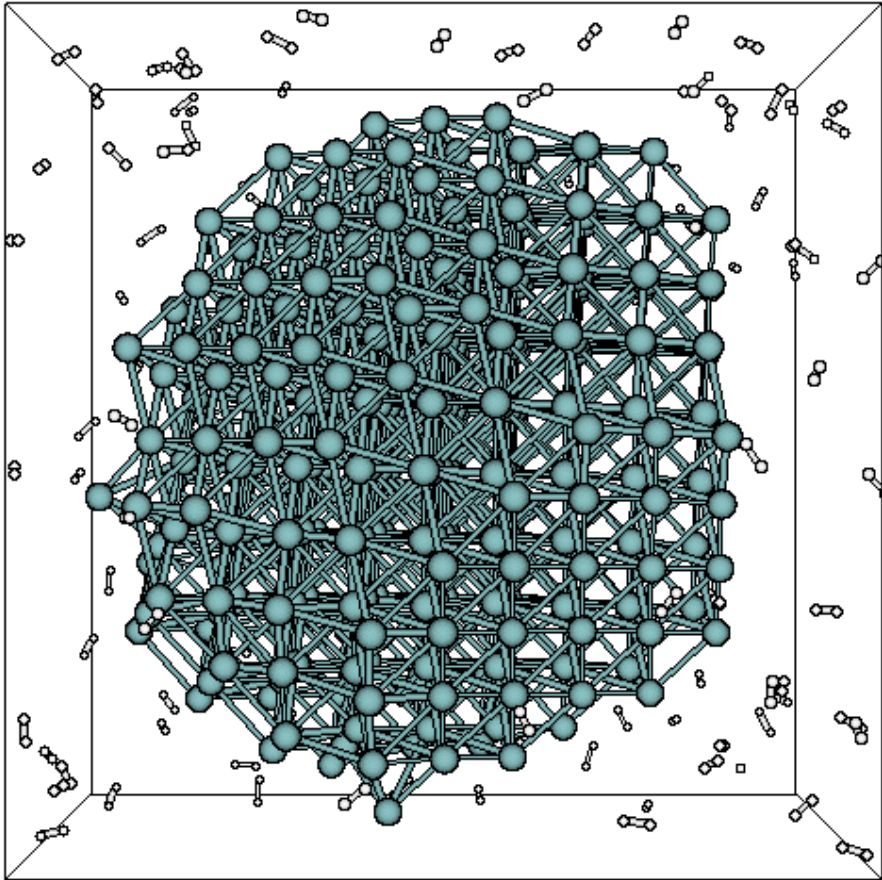
## Analysis of the Ni<sub>309</sub>-particle



● 12 neighbours (fcc):	133 atoms
● 11 neighbours:	17 atoms
● 10 neighbours:	8 atoms
● 9 neighbours (111 facet):	41 atoms
● 8 neighbours (100 facet):	33 atoms
● 7 neighbours:	34 atoms
● 6 neighbours (edge):	37 atoms
● 5 neighbours (adatom):	4 atoms
● 4 neighbours (adatom):	2 atoms

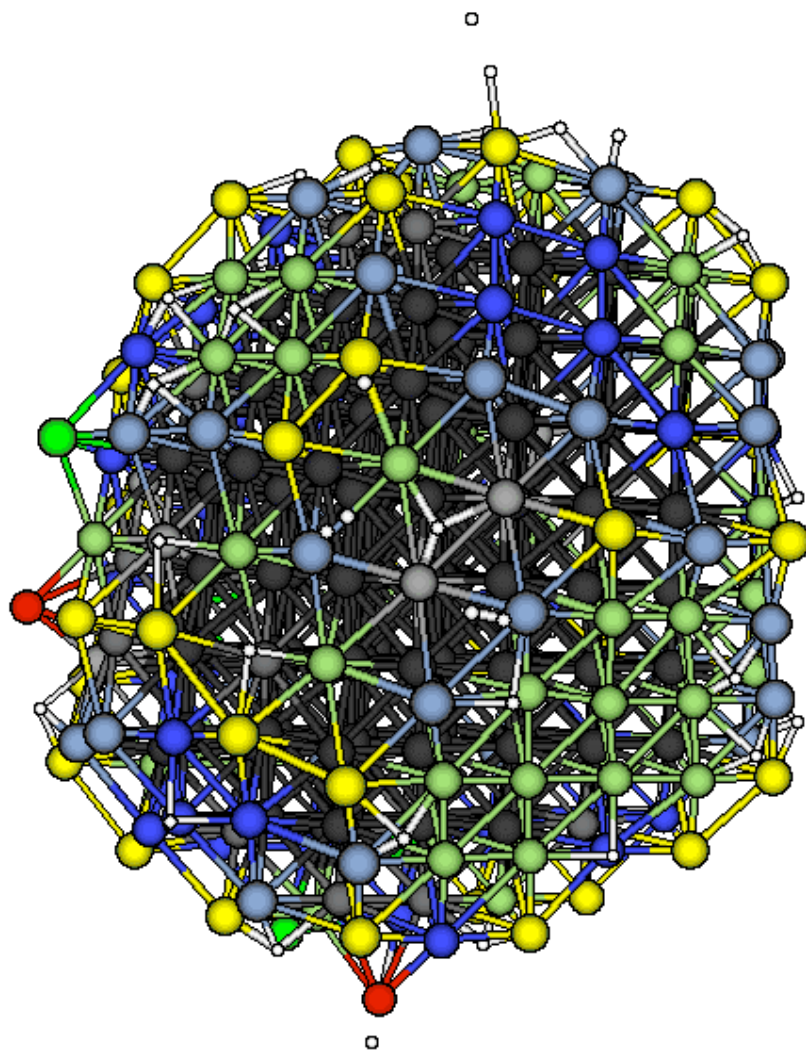
- Surface dominated by 111-facets  
and related edges

## Reaction with H<sub>2</sub> at T=300K



- Ni<sub>309</sub> reacts faster than Ni(100) and Ni(111)-surfaces
- Ni(100)- surface reacts faster than Ni(111)-surface
- H<sub>2</sub>-dissociation stops when surfaces are saturated; no formation of subsurface hydrogen species

## Analysis of hydrogen location



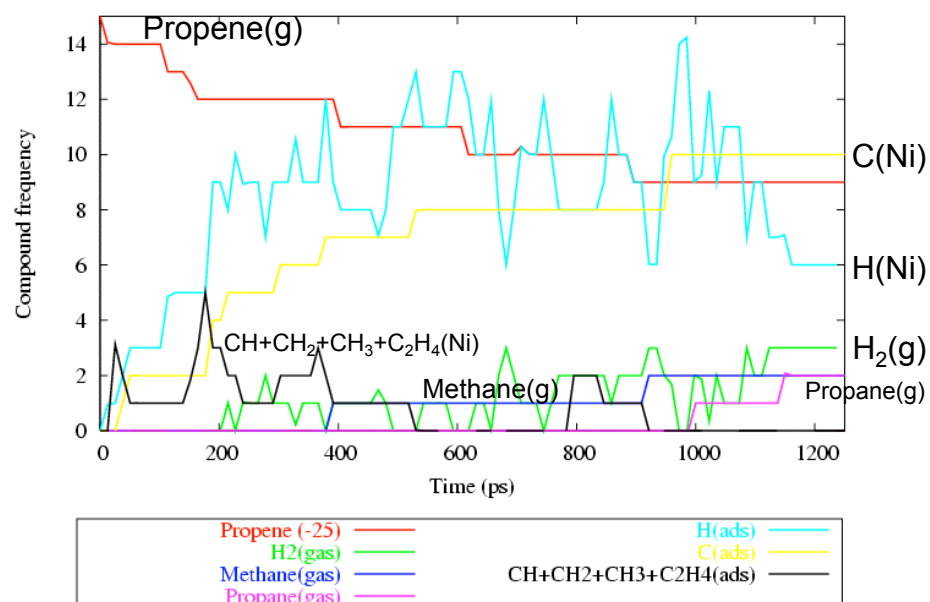
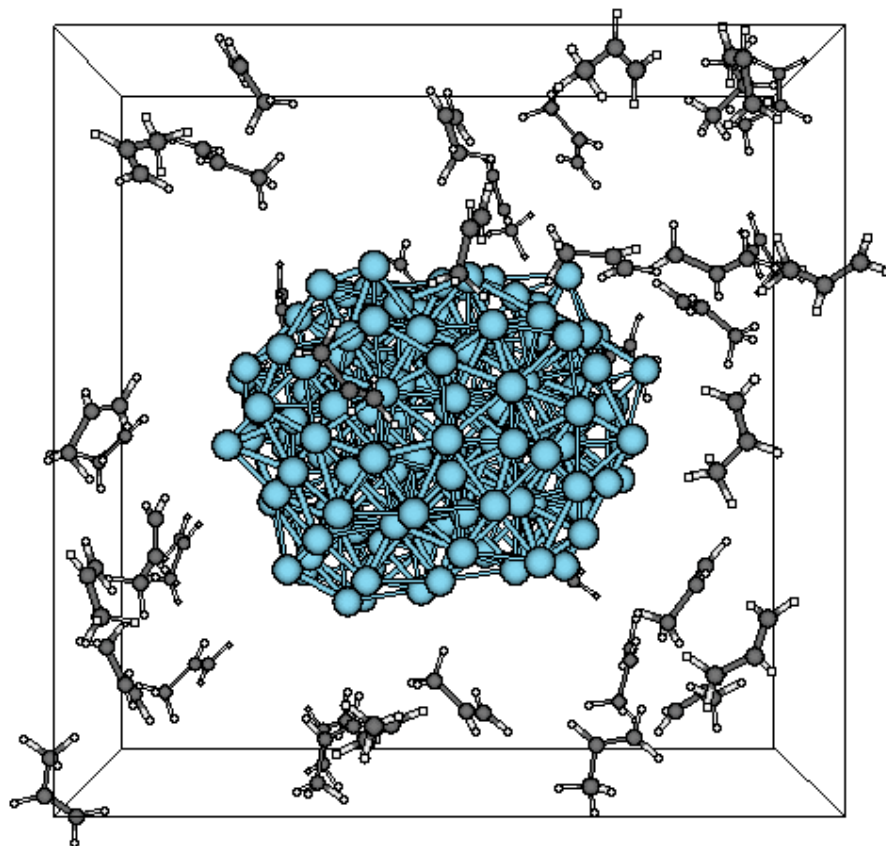
				% coverage
●	12 neighbours (fcc):	133 atoms	0 H	0%
●	11 neighbours:	17 atoms	9 H	53%
●	10 neighbours:	8 atoms	6 H	75%
●	9 neighbours (111 facet):	41 atoms	31 H	76%
●	8 neighbours (100 facet):	33 atoms	14 H	42%
●	7 neighbours:	34 atoms	12 H	35%
●	6 neighbours (edge):	37 atoms	12 H	32%
●	5 neighbours (adatom):	4 atoms	1 H	25%
●	4 neighbours (adatom):	2 atoms	0 H	0%

- Hydrogen accumulates on [111] facets, preferably around [111] edge sites
- Low-coordination Ni-atoms help dissociating H<sub>2</sub> but do not make stable Ni-H bonds; H diffuses on to [111] facets



# Hydrocarbon conversion on Ni-particle

- Initial configuration: Ni<sub>147</sub>-particle; 30 propene
- Temperature: 1500K
- Box size: 25x25x25 Angstrom




- Ni catalyzes C-H bond breaking in propene
- Carbon accumulates in Ni-cluster
- Hydrogen equilibrates with gas-phase H<sub>2</sub>
- Relatively slow reaction (compared with H<sub>2</sub>)
- C(ads) may eventually form CNT-like structures
- No surface-facets due to high temperature

# Conclusions

- ReaxFF has proven to be transferable to a wide range of materials and can handle both complex chemistry and chemical diversity. Specifically, ReaxFF can describe covalent, metallic and ionic materials and interactions between these material types.
- The low computational cost of ReaxFF (compared to QM) makes the method suitable for simulating reaction dynamics for large ( $>> 1000$  atoms) systems (single processor). ReaxFF has now been parallelized, allowing reactive simulations on  $>> 1000,000$  atoms.

group	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
period	Ia	IIa	IIIa**	IVa	Va	VIa	VIIa	VIIIa	VIIIa	VIIIa	Ib	IIb	IIIb	IVb	Vb	VIb	VIIb	VIIIb
1	H	He																
2	Li	Be																
3	Na	Mg																
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
6	Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	Fr	Ra	Ac															

 : not currently described by ReaxFF

# Acknowledgements

- This work was partially sponsored by NSF, ONR/MURI-SOFC and DoE-grants
- Additional funding for ReaxFF development at MSC was provided by ONR, DARPA/PROM, ARL, ASC, Seiko-Epson, Nissan, Intel and Dow-Corning
- Initial funding for ReaxFF development was provided by the British Royal Society

## More information on ReaxFF:

- Website: <http://www.wag.caltech.edu/home/duin>
- E-mail: [duin@wag.caltech.edu](mailto:duin@wag.caltech.edu)

